

**Official Minutes of
MARION COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

November 4, 2025

CALL TO ORDER:

The Marion County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) met in regular session in Commission Chambers at 9:02 a.m. on Tuesday November 4, 2025 at the Marion County Governmental Complex located in Ocala, Florida.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The meeting opened with invocation by Commissioner Curry and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country.

9:00 AM ROLL CALL:

Upon roll call the following members were present: Chairman Kathy Bryant, District 2; Vice-Chairman Carl Zalak, III, District 4; Commissioner Craig Curry, District 1; Commissioner Matthew McClain, District 3; and Commissioner Michelle Stone, District 5. Also present were Clerk Gregory C. Harrell, County Attorney Matthew G. Minter, County Administrator Mounir Bouyounes, Assistant County Administrator (ACA) Tracy Straub, ACA Amanda Tart, and Executive Director of Internal Services Mike McCain.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Bryant addressed upcoming scheduled meetings as listed on the Commission Calendar (Item 13.2.1).

ELECT NEW CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIR:

Clerk Harrell announced the results of the Commissioners' ballots for Chairman and Vice-Chair. He advised that Commissioner Zalak received the appropriate votes to serve as Chairman and Commissioner McClain received the appropriate votes to serve as Vice-Chairman, effective November 18, 2025.

1. PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Upon motion of Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Zalak, the BCC approved and/or ratified the following:

1.1. PROCLAMATION - Lung Cancer Awareness Month - Lisa McGuire, Director of Oncology, HCA Florida Ocala (Approval and Presentation)

The Board presented the Proclamation designating the month of November 2025 as "Lung Cancer Awareness Month" to Director of Oncology Lisa McGuire, HCA Florida Ocala and several representatives from the healthcare industry.

Director of Oncology Lisa McGuire, HCA Florida Ocala, opined that there is still a lot of work to be done in order to increase the screening utilization for low dose computed tomography (LDCT), not only in Marion County but throughout the Country. She stated some of the barriers to screening care are thought to be lack of awareness, cost, and the social stigma associated with lung cancer caused by smoking. The Cancer Alliance of Marion County and its community partners are working diligently to educate the community and local providers so that there will be an increase in cancer screenings and hopefully provide earlier diagnosis. Ms. McGuire advised that each year, lung cancer kills

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more people than colon, breast, and prostate cancers combined. She stated lung cancer death rates have significantly decreased over the past two decades. The national average of the 5-Year lung cancer survival rate is at 28.4 percent (%), which is a 26% improvement over the past 5 years. Ms. McGuire noted the State of Florida is at an average of 27.2% to 30.2%. These improvements are driven by reduced smoking rates, advances in treatment, targeted therapies, and improving screenings for earlier diagnosis. She expressed her appreciation to the BCC for helping shine a light on lung cancer and bringing awareness to the community. Ms. McGuire stated together, they are working to provide better patient outcomes and healthier tomorrows.

1.2. PROCLAMATION – Veterans Appreciation Month - Daisy Diaz, Director, Marion County Veterans Services (Approval and Presentation)

The Board presented the Proclamation designating the month of November 2025 as “Veterans Appreciation Month” to Veterans Services Director Daisy Diaz and several members of the veteran community.

Veterans Services Director Daisy Diaz expressed her appreciation to the BCC for its continuing support, noting Veterans Appreciation Month is a time to honor those who have served this great nation.

Ms. Diaz introduced Mr. Floyd Blair and his wife Sharon, noting Mr. Blair will be turning 105 years old on November 15, 2025. She stated Mr. Blair served as a member of the Army Air Corps.

Commissioner Zalak commented on what the Country would be like if not for those men and women who served and protected America.

Clerk Harrell advised that Mr. Blair is the recipient of the French Legion of Honor Medal, which is the highest military award given by France, noting Mr. Blair actually flew in D-Day and is a true Marion County hero.

1.3. PROCLAMATION – Look Up Marion, Put Down the Phone Day - Beth McCall, Executive Director, Marion County Children's Alliance (Approval and Presentation)

The Board presented the Proclamation designating November 15, 2025 as “Look Up Marion, Put Down the Phone Day” to Executive Director Beth McCall, Marion County Children's Alliance and several other representatives.

Marion County Children's Alliance Executive Director Beth McCall stated the Alliance looked and could not find another event like this going on anywhere else in the Country. Marion County Legislative Manager and Head of the Marion County Local Technology Planning Team Matthew Cretul stated County staff are happy to be involved with the Marion County Children's Alliance in this initiative.

Director of Strategic Partnerships for Marion County Public Schools (MCPS) Casey Griffith stated MCPS is very excited to be a part of this initiative. He advised that this initiative will be part of all Marion County Schools.

Joy Sadler representing the Pearl Project advised that it is the organization's mission to help children heal from trauma and help families connect.

Also present were Executive Director Dawn Westgate, Kimberly's Center for Child Protection; Renee Brandies, Harlow's Helping Hands; Lauren Debick, Creative Springs Marketing Agency; April Savarese, Boys & Girls Club; Karla Greenway, Interfaith Emergency Services; and Sara Groseth, Community Council Against Substance Abuse. Commissioner Curry expressed his appreciation to Ms. McCall for leading this effort.

Ms. McCall encouraged everyone to put down their phones on Saturday, November 15, 2025 and spend time with loved ones. She requested everyone perform one random act of kindness on that day as well.

1.4. PROCLAMATION – Family Caregivers Appreciation Month - Leah Taylor, Advocate, Founder, and Co-Leader of Meadowbrook Church Caregivers (Approval and Presentation)

The Board presented the Proclamation designating the Month of November 2025 as “Family Caregivers Appreciation Month” to Linda Lofton, Co-Founder of Meadowbrook Church Caregivers; Caregivers Rob and Barbara Drecsher; Marcus Alexander, Co-Founder of Shining Light at the Meadowbrook Church Caregivers; and several representatives.

Linda Lofton, Co-Founder of Meadowbrook Church for Caregivers, expressed her appreciation to the Board.

Leah Taylor, Advocate, Founder, and Co-Leader of Meadowbrook Church Caregivers, advised that she has a passion for caregivers and quoted Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter “There are only four kinds of people in the world: those who have been caregivers, those who are currently caregivers, those who will be caregivers, and those who will need caregivers”. She commented on what it takes to keep a person under your care alive, noting there are approximately 70,000 caregivers in Marion County. Ms. Taylor advised of an upcoming event to take place on Saturday, November 8, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. at the Ocala Historic Downtown Square and invited everyone to attend to help show appreciation for all caregivers.

Johnny Jones, Coordinator of Caregiver Training and Support for the Agency On Aging, Elder Options of Gainesville, expressed his appreciation to the Board for its recognition of the work involved in caregiving.

Michelle Johnson, Caregiver and Support Coach for Elder Options of Gainesville expressed her appreciation to all caregivers.

Marcus Alexander, Quad Nurse, advised that the Quad Nurse, LLC, organization provides long-term in-home care for people with permanent disabilities.

1.5. PRESENTATION – Roy F. Kenzie Award from Florida Redevelopment Association to the Marion County Community Redevelopment Agency - Planning Studies for Large City/Community Category - Chuck Varadin, Growth Services Director (Presentation Only)
Growth Services Director Chuck Varadin presented the following:

Description/Background: The Florida Redevelopment Association (FRA) recognized the Silver Springs Community Redevelopment Agency (Agency) with a Roy F. Kenzie Award during their annual program on October 16, 2025. The award was in the category of “Planning Studies for a Large City/Community” and was granted for the 2024 update of the Silver Springs Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) Master Plan.

The updated Master Plan - Reimagine Silver Springs is the direct result of a collaborative effort between the Marion County Board of County Commissioners, various Marion County Departments and Agencies including, but not limited to, Growth Services, Community Services, Parks & Recreation, Public Relations and the Tourist Development Council. Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. was the consultant that prepared the updated plan.

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The team is proud to be recognized for their work and is pleased to present the Roy F. Kenzie Award to the Board of County Commissioners, who also serve as the Agency Board.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Presentation only.

Growth Services Director Chuck Varadin advised that the FRA recently recognized the Silver Springs CRA with the Roy F. Kenzie Award during their annual program last month, noting the award was in the category of "Planning Studies for a Large City/Community" for the 2024 update of the Silver Springs CRA Master Plan. He stated the CRA Master Plan was an update that reimagines one of Florida's most iconic, natural, and cultural destinations through a bold community driven redevelopment strategy that is anchored by the Silver Springs State Park. The Plan outlines 4 concepts that act to illustrate opportunities to revitalize the area's economy, enhance mobility, and celebrates its unique identity. Mr. Varadin advised that the Plan was developed through an extensive public engagement market analysis, noting the plan outlines infrastructure upgrades, branding, and placemaking to guide reinvestment through the year 2052. He stated this project was an extensive collaboration effort between the BCC, various Marion County Departments and Agencies including Growth Services, Community Services, Parks & Recreation, Public Relations (PR), Tourist Development Council (TDC) and the consultant Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc (KHA). Mr. Varadin expressed his appreciation to Senior Planner Chris Rison, Growth Services, who has been the spearhead of the CRA project over the past 10 years. He requested those in attendance that were part of this collaboration to please come forward to accept the award.

Chairman Bryant, on behalf of the Board, expressed her appreciation to the entire team for all their hard work.

1.6. PRESENTATION – Parks & Recreation Carnival Update - Jim Couillard, Parks & Recreation Director (Presentation Only)

Parks and Recreation Director Jim Couillard presented the following:

Description/Background: Recognize key staff members with the Parks & Recreation department for the tremendously successful 2025 Carnival.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: None, for presentation only.

Parks and Recreation Director Jim Couillard expressed his appreciation to staff members with the Parks & Recreation Department and others for their help in making the 2025 Carnival tremendously successful. He stated this is the 7th year the carnival has been put on, noting it began in 2018 at the Brick City Adventure Park. Mr. Couillard noted due to the increase in the size of the event over the years it was moved to the Southeastern Livestock Pavilion (SELP). Mr. Couillard advised that a total of 50 vendors attended this year including all of the entertainment, non-profit organizations, food vendors, Marion County Public Library, Procurement Services, Marion County Fire Rescue (MCFR), Municipal Services (MS), Animal Services, Office of the County Engineer (OCE)/Water Resources, Tourist Development, Solid Waste/Litter Task Force, Human Resources (HR)/ Wellness Program, and the Fleet Department.

Mr. Couillard commented on the impact the event had within the community, noting over 9,200 people attended the event this year. He stated funds were raised by requesting attendees who wanted to utilize the bounce house or the rides to provide a \$5.00 donation or donation of 5 perishable food goods. Mr. Couillard noted the event collected

\$11,273.00 in funds, as well as a “yet to be revealed” number of pounds of food. He stated each year the event maximizes donations and sponsorships to help leverage the money that is collected at the gate. Funds collected directly support The Friends of Marion County Parks and Recreation Foundation Incorporated, which is a not-for-profit organization. Mr. Couillard stated those dollars are then used to provide scholarships for youth within the community that cannot afford summer camps. He noted over the past 7 years the Foundation has helped 119 youth camp attendees, providing a value of \$31,000.00 in scholarships.

Mr. Couillard expressed his appreciation to Commissioner McClain for always attending these type of Park events.

Chairman Bryant expressed her appreciation to all who worked hard on this event.

1.7. PROCLAMATION – Veterans Treatment Court Month (Approval Only)

The Board approved the Proclamation designating the month of November 2025 as “Veterans Treatment Court Month”.

Commissioner Stone out at 9:51 a.m.

Chairman Bryant passed the gavel to Commissioner Zalak who assumed the Chair

Commissioner Bryant out at 9:51 a.m.

Commissioner Stone returned at 9:52 a.m.

Commissioner Bryant returned at 9:52 a.m.

Chairman Zalak returned the gavel to Commissioner Bryant who resumed the Chair.

Chairman Bryant referred to the picture as shown on the overhead screen, noting she would like everyone to welcome her newest granddaughter, Katherine Quinn.

2. AGENDA ITEM PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Reserved for comments related to items specifically listed on this agenda. Scheduled requests will be heard first and limited to five (5) minutes. Unscheduled requests will be limited to two (2) minutes. Citizens may contact Marion County Administration by 5:00 p.m. the Friday before the meeting at 352-438-2300 to request to speak or submit the request online at: www.marionfl.org.

Chairman Bryant opened the floor to public comment.

Joseph Walker, SE 54th Place, Ocklawaha, addressed the Board relating to Agenda Item 7.3. (Marion County Public Library System Annual Plan of Service Fiscal Year 2025-26). He stated he disagreed with State funding coming to the County for libraries because the County does not keep up with maintenance of the library grounds.

Henry Munoz, Marion Oaks Boulevard, addressed the Board relating to Agenda Item 7.5.12., noting he would like more information.

Chairman Bryant clarified that Item 7.5.12. relates to the engineering, design, permitting and project management services for the Baseline Landfill Expansion Phases 1 and 2.

Mr. Munoz commented on the need to control the methane gas coming out of that landfill prior to any construction or expansion.

Chairman Bryant advised that public comment is now closed.

3. ADOPT THE FOLLOWING MINUTES: (3 Sets)

3.1. June 3, 2025

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3.2. June 4, 2025

3.3. June 9, 2025

A motion was made by Commissioner Curry, seconded by Commissioner Stone, to adopt the meeting minutes of June 3, 4, and 9, 2025. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

4. CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND GOVERNMENTAL OR OUTSIDE AGENCIES:

4.1. Request Approval of the Annual Federal Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification

The Board considered the following recommendation as presented by Sheriff William "Billy" Woods, Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO):

Description/Background: This report is required to be completed and submitted to the Department of Justice and the Department of Treasury within 60 days after the close of the fiscal year. The total amount received under the Federal Equitable Sharing Agreement during fiscal year 2024-25 was \$17,839.48. Earned interest in the amount of \$15,382.01 was accumulated during the year.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve and authorize the Chairman to execute the Annual Federal Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Curry, to approve and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the Annual Federal Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

4.2. Billy Woods, Sheriff - Letter of Funding Request Regarding FY 2024-25 Unexpended Funds Returned to the Board of County Commissioners

The Board considered the following recommendation as presented by Sheriff Woods, MCSO:

Description/Background: The attached letter from the Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) conveys the unaudited amounts that are being returned to the Marion County Board of County Commissioners. MCSO has been working with the Marion County Facilities department to assist with the needs and design of expanding the jail and is requesting the total general fund balance of \$120,131, to be used for the capital improvement project.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve funding request.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Curry, to approve the funding request in the amount of \$120,131.00. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

5. CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT:

5.1. Clerk of the Court Items

Clerk Harrell advised that Budget Amendment Resolution 5.1.2. coincides with Consent Agenda Items 7.1.1 and 7.5.14.; and Budget Amendment Resolution 5.1.4. coincides Consent Agenda Item 7.5.6. He advised that Budget Amendment Resolution 5.1.3. has a scrivener's error on the cover memo, noting the listed amount of \$22,413.00 is incorrect and the correct amount should read \$22,498.00. He stated the proposed Resolution does reflect the correct amount of the budget transfer.

In response to Commissioner Stone, County Administrator Mounir Bouyounes clarified that Consent Agenda Item 7.5.12. also coincides with Budget Amendment Resolution 5.1.2.

Commissioner Zalak requested Budget Amendment Resolution 5.1.1. be pulled for individual consideration. It was the general consensus of the Board to concur.

Upon motion of Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Zalak, the Board adopted the following Budget Amendment Resolutions transferring funds and approved the coinciding Consent Agenda Items 7.1.1, 7.5.6., 7.5.12., and 7.5.14. as presented by Clerk Harrell:

5.1.1 Criminal Justice Court Costs Fund - Multiple Departments - \$59,257 was pulled for discussion.

5.1.2. 25-R-437 - Fire, Rescue and EMS Fund - Fire Rescue Services - \$86,589

5.1.3. 25-R-438 - General Fund - Community Services - \$22,498

5.1.4. 25-R-439 - General Fund - Information Technology - \$150,000

5.1.5. 25-R-440 - General Fund - Parks and Recreation - \$141,334

5.1.6. 25-R-441 - General Fund - Procurement Services - \$50,136

5.1.7. 25-R-442 - General Fund - Veterans Services - \$12,000

5.1.8. 25-R-443 - Marion County Utility Fund - Utilities Water System - \$317,865

5.1.9.a. 25-R-444 - General Fund - Sheriff Emergency MGMT TR - \$2,091

5.1.9.b. 25-R-445 - General Fund - Sheriff Emergency MGMT TR - \$9,636

5.1.9.c. 25-R-446 - General Fund - Sheriff Emergency MGMT TR - \$18,533

5.1.9.d. 25-R-447 - General Fund - Sheriff Jail - Transfer - \$174,737

5.1.9.e. 25-R-448 - General Fund - Sheriff Jail - Transfer - \$66,436

5.1.9.f. 25-R-449 - MSTU for Law Enforcement - Sheriff Patrol CID TR - \$1,464

5.1.9.g. 25-R-450 - MSTU for Law Enforcement - Sheriff Patrol CID TR - \$55,805

5.1.9.h. 25-R-451 - MSTU for Law Enforcement - Sheriff Patrol CID TR - \$5,820

5.1.10a. 25-R-452 - General Fund - Sheriff Emergency MGMT TR - \$2,254

5.1.10b. 25-R-453 - General Fund - Sheriff Emergency MGMT TR - \$86,306

5.1.10c. 25-R-454 - MSTU for Law Enforcement - Sheriff Patrol CID TR - \$4,833

5.1.10d. 25-R-455 - MSTU for Law Enforcement - Sheriff Patrol CID TR - \$22,155

5.1.11a. 25-R-456 - Fine and Forfeiture Fund - Sheriff Bailiff Transfer - \$122

5.1.11b. 25-R-457 - General Fund - Sheriff Emergency MGMT TR - \$42,716

5.1.11c. 25-R-458 - General Fund - Sheriff Jail - Transfer - \$240,417

5.1.11d. 25-R-459 - MSTU for Law Enforcement - Sheriff Patrol CID TR - \$343,002

5.1.11e. 25-R-460 - Fine and Forfeiture Fund - Sheriff Regular - Transfer - \$47,145

5.1.12. 25-R-461 - MSTU for Law Enforcement - Sheriff Patrol CID TR - \$81,770

5.1.13. 25-R-462 - Solid Waste Disposal Fund - Solid Waste Disposal - \$30,000

5.1.14. 25-R-463 - Solid Waste Disposal Fund - Solid Waste Disposal - \$200,000

5.1.15. 25-R-464 - State House Initiative Partner Fund - SHIP - \$16,610

(Ed. Note: EMS is the acronym for Emergency Medical Services, CID is the acronym for Criminal Investigation Division, and MSTU is the acronym for Municipal Service Taxing Units.).

5.1.1. Criminal Justice Court Costs Fund - Multiple Departments - \$59,257

5.1.1.a. Criminal Justice Court Cost Fund – Court Innovations - \$35,554

5.1.1.b. Criminal Justice Court Cost Fund – Law Library - \$23,703

Commissioner Zalak expressed concern that this matter did not come in front of the Board during the budget process and requested the Board wait to approve this item until more

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discussion and information could be provided. He advised that just because the State approved a new Judge for the Court system and now the County is being asked to fund a Staff Assistant position to help with that workload. Commissioner Zalak stated he is unsure that it is the County's responsibility to fund that position.

General discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Stone, County Administrator Bouyounes clarified that the funding comes from Court fees that are collected for Court Innovations and the Law Library and are not General Fund dollars. He stated staff are requesting a Budget Amendment so those funds can be placed in the right account to fund the new position. Mr. Bouyounes advised that the new position has not yet come in front of the BCC for approval, but the Court system will be requesting the Board add the new position.

Chairman Bryant stated she has no issue with the funding request and commented on the importance of keeping cases moving through the Court system expeditiously. She addressed the effect a backlogged Court system can have on the inmate population at the Marion County Jail, as well as the associated costs. Chairman Bryant advised that although she agrees with Commissioner Zalak theoretically, the Board needs to have a broader discussion with State Legislators because the State should be funding the Court system.

General discussion resumed.

Commissioner Zalak advised that the County's Statutory obligation is for Court Technology and facilities, noting these dollars can be used for those things rather than funding a new position.

Clerk Harrell reiterated that these funds are not coming from the General Fund and are coming from the Court system through actual cases. He stated there is a Statutorily recognized routing that Court Administration can use those dollars to fund this type of position. Clerk Harrell concurred with Chairman Bryant and Commissioner Zalak that broader discussion with State Legislators is needed due to Counties being forced to help supplement what the State should be funding.

General discussion resumed.

Budget Director Audrey Fowler advised that in regard to the Criminal Justice Court Cost Fund, there is an allocation for a portion of the fee that is collected, noting per Statute this money has to be divided into 4 groupings at 25% each. This includes 25% to the Law Library, 25% to Court Innovations, 25% to Juvenile Alternative Programs, and 25% to Legal Aid. She stated any monies not spent at the end of the year stay in the Fund and can be utilized for Court Innovations.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Curry, to adopt Resolution 25-R-435 (5.1.1.a. Criminal Justice Court Cost Fund – Court Innovations – \$35,554) and Resolution 25-R-436 (5.1.1.b. Criminal Justice Court Cost Fund – Law Library – \$23,703) transferring \$59,257.00 from the Criminal Justice Court Cost Fund – Multiple Departments. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Request Proof of Publication) at 10:00 am:

Public participation is encouraged. When prompted, please step up to the podium and state your name and address for the record. Please limit your comments to the specific issue being addressed.

6.1. PUBLIC HEARING to Consider Revisions to the Marion County Land Development Code (LDC) Amendments to Review and Update Article 1, Division 2, Definitions

Growth Services Deputy Director Kenneth Weyrauch presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: Staff will present the attached proposed amendment of Land Development Code (LDC) Article 1, Division 2, Definitions.

The proposed LDC amendments were considered by the Land Development Regulation Commission (LDRC) in a public hearing held October 1, 2025. The LDRC recommended approval of these items and motioned to forward them to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration.

This is the first of two required public hearings. The second public hearing is scheduled for December 2, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Take public comment and provide direction.

Deputy Clerk Thornton presented proof of publication of Legal ad No. 11754160 entitled, "Notice of Public Hearing" published in the Star Banner newspaper on October 24, 2025. The Notice states the Board will consider the proposed amendment related to Marion County LDC, Article 1, in Marion County, Florida, providing for revisions to Article 1, Administration, Division 2, Definitions adding definitions for big box retailers and shopping centers.

Growth Services Deputy Director Kenneth Weyrauch advised that this is the first of 2 public hearings for related Items 6.1. and 6.2., noting the request was brought forward to staff by the applicant, On Top of the World (OTOW) Communities, LLC. He stated the first request is to add a definition for "big box retailer" to the County's LDC. Mr. Weyrauch advised that the proposed definition reads as "a commercial retail establishment that occupies a large, single-use building or connected series of buildings, typically with a floor area of 75,000 square feet or more, and often comprised of distinct areas devoted to specific functions or types of merchandise. These stores are often part of national or regional chains and generally include large surface parking areas and a warehouse-style layout. Examples include home improvement stores, warehouse clubs, department stores, and general merchandise retailers". He advised that Growth Service staff has no objections and supports the definition being added.

Mr. Weyrauch advised that the second request relates to Item 6.2. On-Site Signs/Wall Signage (Section 4.4.4. of the LDC). He stated the proposal is to add wall signage language to include big box retailer adjacent to shopping centers. Mr. Weyrauch clarified that a single-use building (Home Depot, Walmart, Target, etc.) currently has a sign limitation of 96 square feet (sf), noting this change would allow a big box retailer in a shopping center a sign limitation of 1.75 sf per linear foot of building frontage. He noted currently there is no cap to that.

Chairman Bryant requested staff address Item 6.1. and 6.2. separately.

Commissioner Zalak advised that Marion County has a Walmart on State Road (SR) 200, one in Silver Springs Shores, etc., and they all have signage on them and questioned how those stores already have large signs on their property that may exceed the 96 sq ft limit.

Mr. Weyrauch stated some of those stores are located on land with a B-4 zoning classification, which has more allowances, and others may have received a variance. He opined that part of the issue is in order to receive a variance the applicant would have to show a hardship and noted just wanting more signage is not considered a hardship.

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Commissioner Zalak opined that Marion County already has many big box stores and there has never been an issue relating to signage. He requested staff bring back more information in regard to how big is big enough for a sign and what could happen if the LDC was amended.

Chairman Bryant opened the floor to public comment.

Reggie Bouthillier, Stearns, Weaver, Miller, Weissler, Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A., 106 East College Avenue, Tallahassee, appeared on behalf of the OTOW Communities. He advised that although it is not normal for a private sector entity to request an amendment to the LDC, the OTOW Communities bought commercial property that it would like to strategically find end users who would service residents along State Road (SR) 200. Mr. Bouthillier stated over the past year OTOW has been working with Home Depot and Target stores and there are pending applications of various natures for use of that commercial property. He noted while working on those applications, they discovered the more than 30 year old provision in the LDC as it relates to signage. Mr. Bouthillier advised that he discovered big box stores are being put in the same category as a single occupancy user (no matter how large the building is), which places limits on building signage to 96 sf. He referred to the letter he wrote to staff dated August 22, 2025 (included in the Agenda packet), which contained a rendering of the standard sign packages for Home Depot and Target, which have very common and familiar branding across all of its stores. Mr. Bouthillier noted the limitation of 96 sf of on-building signage does not even encompass the entire "THE" in "THE HOME DEPOT" signage. He stated there is nothing in the Marion County Code to recognize these type of big box retailers and opined that the Code needs to be updated to allow a minimum of 75,000 sf for on-building signage. Mr. Bouthillier opined that big box retailers should be included with shopping centers as it relates to the size of on-building signage, which is based on the linear feet in front of the shopping center.

Mr. Weyrauch clarified that Walmart's are considered shopping centers because they have multiple different stores inside of them.

Joseph Walker, SE 54th Place, Ocklawaha, expressed concern that signage in front of some retail stores are not being maintained, noting he would like to have some type of maintenance language added under signage in the Code.

David Tillman, Tillman and Associates, Chairman of the Land Development Regulations Commission (LDRC), SE 16th Avenue, opined that the language being proposed is very reasonable and aligns with a lot of Codes across the State.

Chairman Bryant advised that public comment is now closed.

Chairman Bryant stated this is the first of 2 public hearings and does not require any action at this time. She advised that the 2nd public hearing is scheduled for December 2, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

6.2. PUBLIC HEARING to Consider Revisions to the Marion County Land Development Code (LDC) Amendments to Review and Update Article 4 Zoning, Division 4 - Advertising Signs

Growth Services Deputy Director Weyrauch presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: Staff will present the attached proposed amendment of Land Development Code (LDC) Article 4, Zoning, Division 4, Advertising Signs, Section 4, On-Site Signs.

The proposed LDC amendments were considered by the Land Development Regulation Commission (LDRC) in a public hearing held October 1, 2025. The

LDRC recommended approval of these items and motioned to forward them to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration.

This is the first of two required public hearings. The second public hearing is scheduled for December 2, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Take public comment and provide direction

Deputy Clerk Thornton presented proof of publication of Legal ad No. 11754182 entitled, "Notice of Public Hearing" published in the Star Banner newspaper on October 24, 2025. The Notice states the Board will consider the proposed amendment related to Marion County Land Development Code (LDC), Article 4, in Marion County, Florida, providing for revisions to Article 4, Zoning, Division 4, Advertising Signs, Section 4.4.4, On-Site/Wall Signage.

Growth Services Deputy Director Weyrauch advised that this is the first of 2 public hearings relating to Section 4.4.4. F.(1.)(c.) wall signage. The request is to add "big box retailers" in the same category as shopping centers with the language as follows "Shopping centers and big box retailers. Wall signage shall not exceed one and three-quarters sf in sign area for each linear foot of each building's frontages". He noted the proposed language would also line up with similar language from the City of Ocala's signage code as well.

Chairman Bryant opened the floor to public comment.

Reggie Bouthillier, Stearns, Weaver, Miller, Weissler, Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A., 106 East College Avenue, Tallahassee, appeared on behalf of the OTOW Communities, requested the Board move this Item forward to the second public hearing in December.

Chairman Bryant advised that public comment is now closed.

Commissioner Zalak requested staff bring more information back at the second public hearing relating to how the calculation is determined for maximum signage limitations. He advised that he agrees that the current code for this issue is antiquated; however, he does not want to base new codes just on this request by OTOW. Commissioner Zalak stated the Board needs to review the range for hundreds of businesses across the County.

Chairman Bryant requested staff meet with Commissioner Zalak prior to the next public hearing to answer any questions he may have.

Chairman Bryant advised that this is the first of 2 public hearings and does not require any action at this time. She stated the 2nd public hearing is scheduled for December 2, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

6.3. PUBLIC HEARING to Consider Revisions to the Marion County Land Development Code (LDC) Amendments to Review and Update Section 4.2.2 General Requirements for all Agricultural Classifications

Growth Services Deputy Director Weyrauch presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: Staff will present the attached proposed amendment of Land Development Code (LDC) Section 4.2.2 General Requirements for all Agricultural Classifications relating to solar facilities. Solar facilities are now allowed by right in agricultural zoning per Florida Statutes, this proposed amendment to the zoning code will provide development standards for solar facilities.

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Staff will also present LDRC's requests to change the maximum allowable height of aircraft hangars from 30 ft to 50 ft in fly-in communities (FICs).

The proposed LDC amendments were considered by the Land Development Regulation Commission (LDRC) in a public hearing held October 1, 2025. The LDRC recommended approval of these items and motioned to forward them to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration.

This is the first of two required public hearings. The second public hearing is scheduled for December 2, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Take public comment and provide direction.

Deputy Clerk Thornton presented proof of publication of Legal ad No. 11754194 entitled, "Notice of Public Hearing" published in the Star Banner newspaper on October 24, 2025. The Notice states the Board will consider the proposed amendment related to Marion County Land Development Code (LDC), 4.2.2 General Requirements for all Agricultural Classifications.

Growth Services Deputy Director Weyrauch advised that the request was generated by County staff, noting solar facilities are now allowed by right (permitted use) in agricultural zoning per Florida Statutes (FS), and this proposed amendment to the zoning Code will provide development standards for those solar facilities. He stated under this Code, the LDRC has also proposed a change for accessory aircraft hangars as it relates to "fly-in communities" that would increase the maximum height from 30 ft to 50 ft.

Mr. Weyrauch addressed the proposed development standards for solar facilities, which would include a Type "A" buffer to be required around the boundary of the project site; all mechanical equipment, including solar panels and similar structures, shall be set back a minimum of 100 ft from all property boundaries; solar facility power inverters and similar equipment shall be oriented towards the interior of the site and away from adjacent properties and be set back a minimum of 300 ft from the property boundary; and all other development standards in Section 4.2.4 shall also apply. He stated these setback requirements would help with noise, lighting, as well as stormwater runoff from solar panels in order to protect the adjacent/neighborhood agricultural uses.

Chairman Bryant questioned whether the County has to allow this type of activity in A-1 (General Agriculture) just because the Statutes permits it in Agriculture zoning. Mr. Weyrauch advised that the County does not have to put it as a permitted use in A-1; however, it is helpful to have development standards for solar facilities in Marion County. Commissioner Curry advised that it was his understanding that this is staff's attempt to bring the County into compliance with State Statute.

Mr. Weyrauch clarified that it is not that the County is out of line with the Statute, but rather the County does not have any development standards for this type of activity/permitted use in Agriculture zoning.

In response to Chairman Bryant, County Attorney Matthew G. Minter clarified that if the State Statute stipulates it is a permitted use in A-1, then it is a permitted use, noting what staff is saying is rather than just having an open ended permitted use, it would be prudent for the Board to have development standards that would apply.

General discussion ensued.

Commissioner Zalak opined that it is unfortunate that States have ruined agricultural lands in certain areas by allowing utilization of that type of property for wind and solar facilities.

Commissioner Stone commented on the importance of including language that would direct a property owner on how to bring the property back to its original state should the land no longer be utilized as a solar facility.

General discussion resumed.

Commissioner Stone referred to the second request under this Code in regard to the change in height for accessory aircraft hangars as it relates to “fly-in communities” that would increase the maximum height from 30 ft to 50 ft and questioned where this request came from.

David Tillman, Tillman and Associates, Chairman of the LDRC, SE 16th Avenue, advised that typically the maximum height allowed for an Agricultural structure is 50 ft (10 to 12 ft per floor); however, there is currently a restriction on accessory use aircraft hangars to a maximum of 30 ft.

In response to Commissioner Stone, Mr. Tillman stated the increase would help cover aircraft tail heights in order for certain aircrafts to fit into the structure.

Commissioner Stone expressed concern with allowing that height, noting this is for a small fly-in community and not an airport.

General discussion ensued.

Mr. Minter advised that fly-in communities are regulated differently than an airport, noting there is Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) permitted privately owned airports throughout Marion County. He clarified that a fly-in community is a residential community with people that own airplanes and are under different regulations than a privately owned airport.

Commissioner McClain questioned what the difference would be if someone built a 50 ft barn as apposed to a 50 foot accessory airplane structure.

Commissioner Stone opined that a larger airplane would attract more noise for all of the neighbors than a barn (i.e., feed silos).

Mr. Tillman clarified that the Board is not limiting the size of the plane coming in, it would be limiting whether or not someone has the ability to store that plane in a protected cover. He stated it is the length of the runway that limits the size of a plane’s ability to take off and land.

General discussion resumed.

Mr. Tillman commented on solar facilities, noting he regrets that the LDRC was not able to spend more time on this matter. He stated the LDRC does a lot to protect the Farmland Preservation Area (FPA) region and expressed concern that the FPA is being opened up to this type of industry. Mr. Tillman noted there is an area near his farm in Georgia where they have stripped hundreds of acres of land and put up solar panel after solar panel. He opined that it would be better if those facilities had to get a Special Use Permit (SUP) that way the Board could add conditions. Mr. Tillman advised that those facilities change the stormwater discharge from a site by skipping the sheet flow portion and sending things directly into the shallow concentrated flow. He stated there are no additional stormwater criteria for this type of use.

In response to Chairman Bryant, Mr. Tillman stated the next LDRC meeting is tomorrow night (November 5, 2025).

Mr. Weyrauch clarified that the LDRC meets on the first and third Wednesday of every month.

Chairman Bryant questioned whether the Board should reschedule the 2nd public hearing on these two items until after the first of year to allow more time for the LDRC and the BCC to review the requests.

General discussion resumed.

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Mr. Tillman commented on the need for legal counsel advice in formulating what limitations the County can or cannot place on solar facility sites. He addressed the need to be comparable to other uses allowed on A-1 zoning.

General discussion resumed.

Chairman Bryant advised that she concurred with Commissioner McClain that it is better to move forward and get something in place now, noting the Board can always modify the Code in the future.

ACA Tracy Straub advised that the LDRC's priorities have been the assignments from the BCC, which include getting through the review of the Comprehensive Plan, as well as fly-in communities, landscape and buffering requirements, etc., noting this will be added to that list.

Commissioner McClain recommended the Board reach out to the Florida Association of Counties (FAC), noting there are other communities going through this same process since the Statute has been amended.

General discussion ensued.

Commissioner Stone questioned whether both of these items (solar panel farms and aircraft height restrictions) have to come back together or can they be addressed by the Board separately. Mr. Weyrauch stated they can be separated. It was the general consensus of the Board to hear the matters separately.

Chairman Bryant opened the floor to public comment.

Henry Munoz, Marion Oaks Boulevard, stated he agreed that the Board needs to address solar farms and aircraft height restrictions separately.

Thomas Whitler, Pine Course, suggested the BCC think outside the box, noting his recommendation would be to place solar panels on parking lots instead of farmland.

Chairman Bryant advised that public comment is now closed.

Chairman Bryant advised that this is the first of 2 public hearings and does not require any action at this time. She directed staff to bring recommendations for solar panel farms back at the 2nd public hearing scheduled for December 2, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. She advised that the Board has no desire to address amending the accessory aircraft hangar height restrictions for fly-in communities.

In response to Chairman Bryant, Mr. Minter clarified that the Board is not required to bring back the request for amending the accessory aircraft hangar height restrictions for fly-in communities if it chooses not to move forward.

6.4. PUBLIC HEARING to Consider an Ordinance Creating Chapter 5, Boats, Docks and Waterways, Article VI Silver Glen Springs and Silver Glen Run Providing for a Noise Sensitive Zone, Penalties and Enforcement

County Attorney Minter, legal, presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: Many people congregate in the Silver Glen Springs and Silver Glen Run area located in Marion County, some of whom are utilizing excessively loud and amplified sound systems or other sound devices on and off their boats for personal entertainment. Their excessive use of amplified sound systems or other sound devices are having negative and deleterious effects on other users of the Silver Glen Springs and Silver Glen Run who are unable to peaceably enjoy the Silver Glen Springs and Silver Glen Run areas. It is critical to the health, safety and well-being of Marion County citizens that the excessively loud and amplified sounds within the Silver Glen Springs and Silver Glen Run area be regulated.

The proposed ordinance will continue to provide for alcohol prohibition and enforcement and add noise control, enforcement, and penalties specifically in Silver Glen Springs and Silver Glen Run in a newly created section under Chapter 5 - Boats, Docks and Waterways, entitled Article VI, Silver Glen Springs and Silver Glen Run.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve ordinance.

Deputy Clerk Thornton presented proof of publication of Legal ad No. 11772653 entitled, "Notice of Public Hearing" published in the Star Banner newspaper on October 24, 2025. The Notice states the Board will consider the adoption of a proposed Ordinance creating Chapter 5, Boats, Docks and Waterways, Article VI Silver Glen Springs and Silver Glen Run Providing for a Noise Sensitive Zone, Penalties and Enforcement.

County Attorney Minter advised that this item involves both Marion and Lake Counties as it relates to Silver Glen Springs and Silver Glen Run.

Chairman Bryant passed the gavel to Commissioner Zalak who assumed the Chair.

Commissioner Bryant out at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Minter stated the issue is in regard to boats and jet skis whose excessive use of amplified sound systems or other sound devices disrupt others who are trying to enjoy a peaceful day of recreation at the springs. He advised that the State of Florida was receiving so many complaints about the noise that they were contemplating shutting down all activity at Silver Glen Springs and Silver Glen Run, which would have a negative effect on Marion County residents. Mr. Minter stated County staff worked with Commissioner Zalak, MCSO, Lake County representatives and the Lake County Sheriff's Office (LCSO), to try and convince the State that Marion and Lake Counties could come up with some regulations that would allow the County to police itself in regard to this issue.

Senior Assistant County Attorney Linda Blackburn, Legal, advised that staff utilized the language in Section 14-6.1, Marion County Code, relating to prohibition of alcohol at Silver Glen Springs and Silver Glen Run and created a Section under Chapter 5 - Boats, Docks and Waterways, entitled Article VI, Silver Glen Springs and Silver Glen Run. She advised that when staff moved that language under Chapter 5, it also added language to create a "Noise Sensitive Zone" under Article VI, Sections 5-70 and 5-71. The Sections provide definitions and declaration of a "Noise Sensitive Zone", as well as provides for violations, enforcement, penalties and remedies should there be a violation of the Ordinance.

Commissioner Bryant returned at 11:03 a.m.

Chairman Zalak returned the gavel to Commissioner Bryant who resumed the Chair.

In response to Commissioner Zalak, Ms. Blackburn advised that in conjunction with MCSO and the LCSO staff have described the situation as a battle of speakers with amplified sound coming from boats and jet skis, which is disturbing for everyone. She clarified that this would allow for law enforcement to minimize the amplified sound and/or disturbance and by declaring the area a Noise Sensitive Zone, it would be unlawful for any person to make, create, or maintain any amplified sound while in, on, or under the waters of Silver Glen Springs or Silver Glen Run. Ms. Blackburn stated the following acts shall be prohibited within the Noise Sensitive Zone: the using, operating, or permitting to be used or operated amplified sound produced by a radio, tape player, compact disc player, portable music or video player, cellular telephone, tablet computer, laptop computer, stereo, television, musical instrument, speaker, or other mechanical or electronic sound-making device, instrument, or other machine or device used for the

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production, reproduction, or emission of sound which disturbs the peace. She advised that the enforcement regulations come under Article VI, 5-71 (Section c) "Violation, Enforcement, Penalty and Remedies" and contains the following language: 1) When a violation of this section has occurred within the presence of a law enforcement officer (plainly audible) or if the law enforcement officer has been provided with sufficient information to form a belief that a violation of this section has occurred. Ms. Blackburn stated the goal is education and minimizing the sound, not making an arrest.

Commissioner Zalak opined that this is exactly what Lake County needs as their law enforcement are the ones that patrol most of Silver Glen Springs through the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Marion County.

Ms. Blackburn clarified that Marion County patrols one-third of Silver Glen Run and Lake County patrols the rest.

General discussion ensued.

Chairman Bryant opened the floor to public comment.

There being none, Chairman Bryant advised that public comment is now closed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zalak, seconded by Commissioner McClain, to adopt Ordinance 25-51. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

Ordinance 25-51 is entitled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA, CREATING CHAPTER 5, BOATS, DOCKS AND WATERWAYS, ARTICLE VI SILVER GLEN SPRINGS AND SILVER GLEN RUN TO PROVIDE FOR A NOISE SENSITIVE ZONE, PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT; RENUMBERING AND RENAMING SECTION 14-6.1, MARION COUNTY CODE, ENTITLED SILVER GLEN SPRINGS AND SILVER GLEN RUN, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES PROHIBITED, TO CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE VI, SECTION 5-70 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES PROHIBITED; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

6.5. PUBLIC HEARING to Consider an Application for a Solid Waste Commercial and Residential Collection Service Franchise - Waste Connections of Florida, Inc.

Solid Waste Director Mark Johnson presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: Marion County Code, Chapter 16, Division 2, Sections 48-49 authorizes the applicant to request a public hearing of the Board of County Commissioners for approval of a new franchise and request appropriate action. The Solid Waste department has a complete application requesting a new franchise from Waste Connections of Florida, Inc. The Board, at the public hearing, shall determine if the applicant is capable of complying with the provisions of the County Code and other applicable rules and regulations, and whether there is a public need for the refuse collection that is in the best interest for the health, safety, and welfare of the County.

As required by Marion County Code, a notice has been placed in the newspaper of general circulation within the County that Waste Connections of Florida, Inc intends to present their application at this public hearing and that such notice was published at least 10 days prior to the public hearing.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Request motion to approve the resolution for the purpose of awarding a commercial and residential collection service franchise to Waste Connections of Florida, Inc.

Deputy Clerk Thornton presented of Legal ad No. 11766465 entitled, "Notice of Public Hearing" published in the Star Banner newspaper on October 24, 2025. The Notice states the Board will consider an application from Waste Connections of Florida for a Commercial and Residential Collection Service Franchise in accordance with Marion County Code, Section 16 Solid Wastes, Article 1 Solid Waste Management, Division 2 Franchise for the collection, transportation and disposal of commercial and residential waste in unincorporated Marion County.

Solid Waste Director Mark Johnson stated the request is for Board consideration of an application requesting a new commercial and residential franchise agreement from Waste Connections of Florida, Inc. He advised that Waste Connections, Inc., was founded in 1997 and is the third largest solid waste management company in North America. The company serves millions of customers across 42 states and 6 Canadian Provinces and are a \$9,000,000,000.00 corporation with approximately 25,000 employees. Mr. Johnson stated Waste Connections, Inc., has longstanding relations with Marion County, providing disposal services through the Heart of Florida (HOF) Landfill, which it owns and operates. He noted Waste Connections Inc., has operations across Sumter, Lake, Volusia, Osceola, Citrus, Orange, Hernando, and Seminole Counties. Mr. Johnson commented on the organization's Business Plan, noting it considers Marion County as a good strategic growth strategy as it is adjacent to its other operations and plan to dedicated sales and operational staff with a goal to secure 100 accounts within the first 6 months and would initially operate out of the Lake County facility. He noted there are representatives from Waste Connections, Inc., present today to answer any questions the Board may have.

Chairman Bryant opened the floor to public comment.

There being none, Chairman Bryant advised that public comment is now closed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zalak, seconded by Commissioner Stone, to adopt Resolution 25-R-465 awarding a commercial and residential collection service franchise to Waste Connections of Florida, Inc., for the collection, transportation and disposal of commercial and residential waste in unincorporated Marion County. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

Resolution 25-R-465 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO AWARD A FRANCHISE FOR THE COLLECTION, TRANSPORTATION AND DISPOSAL OF COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE IN MARION COUNTY TO WASTE CONNECTIONS OF FLORIDA, INC.; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

5.2.1. Request Approval to Proceed with the Annual Contract with MAXIMUS to Perform Cost Allocation Study for the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget

The Board considered the following recommendation as presented by Budget Director Audrey Fowler:

Description/Background: Our cost allocation consultant firm, MAXIMUS, is prepared to perform the Cost Allocation – Marion County, Animal Services and Public Safety Communications studies that will be utilized for the FY 2026-27

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Budget. The Clerk's Office is to enter into a contract with MAXIMUS for the study. Prior to finalizing the contract, we ask that the Board of County Commissioners confirm their intent for the continued utilization of the cost allocation information in preparation of the budget.

Budget/Impact: None; funding appropriation is included in the Clerk of Court and Comptroller budget.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve to proceed with the annual contract for preparation of the cost allocation program.

A motion was made by Commissioner McClain, seconded by Commissioner Curry, to approve the annual contract with MAXIMUS for preparation of the cost allocation program for the fiscal year (FY) 2026-27 budget. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

5.2.2. Present the Acquisition or Disposition of Property Forms Authorizing Changes in Status, as Follows: 039704 and 53598.

A motion was made by Commissioner McClain, seconded by Commissioner Curry, to approve the Acquisition or Disposition of Property Form authorizing change in status for 039704 and 53598. The motion was unanimously approved (5-0).

7. CONSENT:

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda is a motion to approve all recommended actions. All matters on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion unless desired by a Commissioner. Commissioner Zalac expressed his appreciation to staff for getting the road projects moving forward.

Upon motion of Commissioner McClain, seconded by Commissioner Stone, the Board acted on the Consent Agenda as follows:

7.1. Fire Rescue:

7.1.1. Request Approval of the Drone Replacement Program Financial Assistance Agreement between Florida Department of Law Enforcement and Marion County Fire Rescue (Budget Impact - Neutral; grant reimbursement of \$75,000)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Fire Chief James Banta, Marion County Fire Rescue (MCFR):

Description/Background: Marion County Fire Rescue (MCFR) was awarded funding under the FY 2025-26 Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) drone replacement program, established through a \$25 million legislative appropriation to assist public safety agencies in replacing noncompliant drones and purchasing new drones. The program supports compliance with Florida Statutes Section 934.50 and Florida Administrative Code Rule 60GG-2.0075, which limit governmental use to state-approved platforms.

Through this award, MCFR will receive reimbursement for three compliant unmanned aerial systems (UAS) valued at up to \$25,000 each. The new equipment will expand the department's UAS program from one existing drone to four total - one additional unit for the hazardous materials team and two assigned to the technical rescue/urban search and rescue team. These resources will enhance capabilities for hazardous materials response, wide-area search, disaster assessment, and aerial situational awareness.

All purchases will comply with state and county procurement policies, and the project period runs through June 30, 2026.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; grant reimbursement of \$75,000.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the Drone Replacement Program Financial Assistance Agreement between Florida Department of Law Enforcement and Marion County Fire Rescue.

(Ed. Note: this Item was approved with Budget Amendment Resolution 5.1.2.).

7.2. Human Resources:

7.2.1. Request Approval of the Resolution for the Revision of the Employee Handbook (Budget Impact - None)

The Board accepted the following recommendation to adopt Resolution 25-R-466 as presented by Human Resources Director Sara Caron:

Description/Background: The Human Resources Director was recently tasked with conducting a review of several sections of the current handbook. The proposed revisions presented within this agenda item will streamline processes, help retain employees, and promote the best interest of the County. The handbook revisions are attached, as well as a list summarizing the notable changes.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the attached resolution for the revisions of the Employee Handbook with an effective date of November 4, 2025.

Resolution 25-R-466 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE 2025 MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK AND REPEALING ALL PRIOR EMPLOYEE HANDBOOKS.

7.3. Library Services:

7.3.1. Request Approval of Marion County Public Library System Annual Plan of Service Fiscal Year 2025-26 (Budget Impact - Neutral; grant revenue of approximately \$100,000)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Library Director Julia Sieg:

Description/Background: Annually, as a State Aid grant-receiving public library, we are required to submit documents by December 1st, as specified by the State Library of Florida. One required document is an annual plan of service, which has been approved by the library's Governing Body.

Attached is the proposed Marion County Public Library System Annual Plan of Service, FY 2025-26. The proposed annual plan of service is adapted from the approved Marion County Public Library System Operational Plan of Service, 2025-2030.

The vision, mission, three goals, and objectives remain the same in this annual plan as they appear in the operational plan. The activities included are what may reasonably be initiated, continued, or accomplished in the upcoming fiscal year based on already approved resources via the annual budgeting process. Conducting the activities associated with the Annual Plan of Service may reflect continuation of a particular aspect of service, investigation into the feasibility of a service, or improvement in efficiency.

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Budget/Impact: Neutral; the revenue from the State Aid to Libraries grant for Marion County for FY 2025-26 is estimated to be approximately \$100,000. Costs associated with the implementation of the Annual Plan of Service have already been reflected in the approved budget.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the attached Marion County Public Library System Annual Plan of Service, 2025-26.

7.4. Parks & Recreation:

7.4.1. Request Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Belleview and Marion County for Repairs and Improvements to Lighting System at Belleview Sportsplex (Budget Impact - Neutral; contribution from City of Belleview of \$316,599)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Parks and Recreation Director Couillard:

Description/Background: Marion County Parks & Recreation, through an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Belleview (the City), manages and maintains the Belleview Sportsplex. Unforeseen electrical issues at the baseball fields require a substantial repair and upgrade project to improve the safety and functionality of the lighting system in and around said baseball fields.

Marion County obtained three quotes with different repair and upgrade options: repairs using overhead wiring; repairs using underground wiring and the existing lights; repairs using underground wiring and an upgrade to LED lighting. Marion County originally committed to funding the first option and presented all three options to the City for consideration of funding assistance. The City elected the third option to use underground wiring and LED lighting and to meet the difference in cost between the first and third option.

Through this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the City has committed to investing \$316,599 towards the lighting repair and upgrade project. Staff with the Parks & Recreation department are presenting this MOU for the Board consideration and approval, prior to moving forward with the project.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; contribution from the City of Belleview in the amount of \$316,599.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve Memorandum of Understanding between City of Belleview and Marion County and authorize for Chairman and Clerk to execute the same.

7.5. Procurement Services:

7.5.1. Request Approval of Bid Award: 25B-124 E/S Hwy 25 - C. W. Roberts Contracting, Inc. Ocala, FL (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$2,346,377)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Procurement Services Director Susan Olsen:

Description/Background: On behalf of the Office of the County Engineer, Procurement advertised a bid to hire a qualified contractor to resurface E/S Hwy 25 from SE 162nd Place to SE 141st Avenue Road. The work shall include, but not be limited to, milling and overlaying the existing pavement, constructing side street and driveway aprons, sodding the shoulders, and restriping pavement markings. The scope also includes the removal of existing guardrail end treatments and the installation of new end treatments to meet current standards. Four submittals were received, and the tabulation is below:

Firm - Location	Bid Total
C. W. Roberts Contracting, Inc. - Ocala, FL	\$2,346,376.55
Superior Asphalt, Inc.- Oneco, FL	\$2,389,001.00
Anderson Columbia Co., Inc. - Ocala, FL	\$2,416,880.31
Art Walker Construction, Inc.- Ocala, FL	\$2,778,025.00

Steven Cohoon, P.E., County Engineer, recommends that C. W. Roberts Contracting, Inc. receive the award as the lowest, most responsive, and most responsible bidder.

Attached for review is a draft of the contract. Upon approval at today's meeting, it will be sent to C. W. Roberts Contracting, Inc. for signature, and upon return, will be forwarded to Legal, the Clerk, and Chairman for signatures.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of \$2,346,376.55. 10% contingency will be added to the purchase order in accordance with the Procurement Manual. Funding is from BM761541-563221 (\$1,095,000) (80% Gas Tax Construction Fund) and BO762541-563220 (\$1,251,376.55) (2nd Local Option Fuel Tax).

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the recommendation and allow staff to issue a contract, and upon approval by Legal, authorize the Clerk and Chairman to execute contract with C.W. Roberts, Inc. under 25B-124.

7.5.2. Request Approval of Bid Award: 25B-148 SW 80th Avenue Segment 1 Phases 1A & 1B - C. W. Roberts Contracting, Inc. Ocala, FL (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$38,639,647)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Procurement Services Director Olsen:

Description/Background: On behalf of the Office of the County Engineer, Procurement advertised a bid to hire a qualified contractor to widen SW 80th Avenue into a four-lane divided roadway over approximately 5.6 miles, to be completed as Phase 1A (SW 90th Street to 0.25 mile north of SW 80th Street) and Phase 1B (SW 80th Street to 0.5 mile north of SW 38th Street). Work includes construction of new travel lanes, curb and gutter, divided median, roundabouts, traffic signals, pavement markings, signage, and landscaping, along with a 12-foot multimodal path and 5-foot sidewalk for bicycle and pedestrian connectivity. The project also includes new and expanded stormwater systems with drainage retention areas and conveyance improvements to meet regulatory standards. The contractor will be responsible for maintenance of traffic, coordination with utilities, and environmental protection throughout construction, with all work performed in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations. Three (3) submittals were received, and the tabulation is below:

Firm - Location	Bid Total
C. W. Roberts Contracting, Inc. - Ocala, FL	\$38,639,646.63
Commercial Industrial Corp. - Ocala, FL	\$40,340,917.10
Anderson Columbia Co, Inc. - Lake City, FL	\$42,972,447.51

Steven Cohoon, P.E., County Engineer, recommends that C. W. Roberts Contracting, Inc. receive the award as the lowest, most responsive, and most responsible bidder.

Attached for review is a draft of the contract. Upon approval at today's meeting, it will be sent to Art Walker Construction, Inc. for signature, and upon return, will be forwarded to Legal, the Clerk, and Chairman for signatures.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of \$38,639,646.63. 10% contingency will be added to the purchase order in accordance with the Procurement Manual. Funding is from VJ738541-563220-STC073815 (\$32,489,646.63) (Infrast Surtax Cap Proj Fund), and GB772541-563512-TIP073815 (\$6,150,000) (Impact Fee-West District).

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the recommendation and allow staff to issue a contract, and upon approval by Legal, authorize the Clerk and Chairman to execute contract with C. W. Roberts Contracting, Inc. under 25B-148.

7.5.3. Request Approval of Bid Award: 25B-152 NW 80th Avenue and W Hwy 40 Intersection Improvement Project - Commercial Industrial Corp. Ocala, FL (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$11,184,942)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Procurement Services Director Olsen:

Description/Background: On behalf of the Office of the County Engineer, Procurement advertised a bid to hire a qualified contractor for the improvement of the NW 80th Avenue and W Hwy 40 intersection. The work will consist of improvements to the existing intersection to facilitate the future expansion of 80th Avenue to four lanes, and includes, but not limited to, additional through lanes and turn lanes, bike lanes, curb and gutter, concrete sidewalks, multi-use paths, medians, storm drainage, drainage retention areas, traffic markings and signals, ditches, berms, coordination for relocation of existing utilities, driveways, dry water mains, and dry sanitary force mains. Two submittals were received, and the tabulation is below:

Firm - Location	Bid Total
Commercial Industrial Corp. - Ocala, FL	\$11,184,942.19
C. W. Roberts Contracting, Inc. - Ocala, FL	\$13,258,152.47

Steven Cohoon, P.E., County Engineer, recommends that Commercial Industrial Corp. (CIC) receive the award as the lowest, most responsive, and most responsible bidder.

Attached for review is a draft of the contract. Upon approval at today's meeting, it will be sent to CIC for signature, and upon return, will be forwarded to Legal, the Clerk, and Chairman for signatures.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of \$11,184,942.19. 10% contingency will be added to the purchase order in accordance with the Procurement Manual. Funding is from VJ738541-563220-STC073868 (\$10,197,524.19) (Infrast Surtax Cap Proj Fund) and ZF448536-563102-UTC000150 (\$987,418) (Marion County Utility Fund).

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the recommendation and allow staff to issue a contract, and upon approval by Legal, authorize the Clerk and Chairman to execute contract with CIC under 25B-152.

7.5.4. Request Approval of Bid Award: 25B-165 NE 7th Avenue and NW/NE 42nd Street Resurfacing Project - Anderson Columbia Co., Inc. Ocala, FL (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$976,322)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Procurement Services Director Olsen:

Description/Background: On behalf of the Office of the County Engineer, Procurement advertised a bid to hire a contractor to resurface NE 7th Avenue between NE 42nd Street and NE 49th Street, and NW/NE 42nd Street between W Anthony Road and NE Jacksonville Road. The work will consist of resurfacing existing pavement, sodding shoulders, adding end treatments, constructing driveway and side street aprons, and installing/restriping pavement markings. Four (4) submittals were received, and the tabulation is below:

Firm - Location	Bid Total
Anderson Columbia Co., Inc. - Ocala, FL	\$976,321.99
Art Walker Construction, Inc. Lowell, FL	\$1,057,645.28
Superior Asphalt, Inc. - Oneco, FL	\$1,137,001.00
C. W. Roberts Contracting, Inc. - Ocala, FL	\$1,176,199.00

Steven Cohoon, P.E., County Engineer, recommends that Anderson Columbia Co., Inc. receive the award as the lowest, most responsive, and most responsible bidder.

Attached for review is a draft of the contract. Upon approval at today's meeting, it will be sent to Anderson Columbia Co., Inc. for signature, and upon return, will be forwarded to Legal, the Clerk, and Chairman for signatures.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of \$976,321.99. 10% contingency will be added to the purchase order in accordance with the Procurement Manual. Funding is from BM761541-563221 (\$312,310.37) (80% Gas Tax Construction Fund), and VJ738541-563220-STC073878 (\$664,011.62) (Infrast Surtax Cap Proj Fund).

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the recommendation and allow staff to issue a contract, and upon approval by Legal, authorize the Clerk and Chairman to execute contract with Anderson Columbia Co., Inc. under 25B-165.

7.5.5. Request Approval of Change Order 1 to Purchase Order 2500981: 23Q-087-TO-33 - Comprehensive Plan Amendments - Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., Ocala, FL (Budget Impact - Neutral; additional expenditure of \$23,975)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Procurement Services Director Olsen:

Description/Background: On June 6, 2023, the Board approved contracts with 10 engineering firms to provide civil and site related engineering services for the County. Firms were selected based on area of specialty and equitable distribution of work in accordance with Section 287.055, Florida Statutes, the Consultant's Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA).

On February 4, 2025, the Board approved Task Order No. 33 with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. to prepare amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, including goals, objectives, and policies consistent with Chapter 163, Part II, Florida Statutes. The scope also includes public engagement activities such as workshops, public hearings, and preparation of the final draft Comprehensive Plan. Change Order No. 1, presented for the Board's consideration today, increases Purchase Order No. 2500981 by \$23,975 to cover additional meetings and materials related to the proposed "mini-farm" land use concept, preparation of a

cost estimate for a typical mini-farm, and development of visual exhibits for park and amenity examples in the Land Development Code update. The consultant will also provide a summary of how the Comprehensive Plan revisions align with Senate Bill 180 and analyze roadway impacts under Transportation Element 4.1.4. Budget/Impact: Neutral; additional expenditure of \$23,975, bringing the total purchase order amount to \$260,400. Funding comes from AA320515-531109 - General Fund.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve, authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute, and allow staff to process Change Order 1 to Purchase Order 2500981.

7.5.6. Request Approval of Contract: 26C-018 EUNA Capital Planning Budget Software – EUNA Solutions, Inc., Sandy Springs, GA (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$131,038)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Procurement Services Director Olsen:

Description/Background: Marion County Administration, along with the Marion County Clerk of Court's Budget Department, is seeking to modernize and streamline its budgeting, personnel planning, and capital project management processes by implementing the EUNA Budget Framework software solution. This comprehensive cloud-based platform provides integrated tools for operating and personnel budgeting, capital planning, public transparency through OpenBook, and digital budget publication via Budget Book Studio.

Implementation services will include planning and analysis, installation, data load and verification, training, and project management. The system will integrate with the County's existing Tyler Munis Enterprise ERP system through a flat file interface for capital actuals, ensuring accurate data exchange and improved reporting.

The vendor, EUNA Solutions, Inc. (EUNA), is an authorized reseller through Sourcewell Contract 060624-GTH, which was competitively solicited in accordance with Florida procurement requirements.

The total five-year subscription cost is \$533,784, as outlined below:

Year	Annual Cost	Includes
Year 1	\$131,038	Implementation & first-year services
Year 2	\$96,267	3% increase applied
Year 3	\$99,155	3% increase applied
Year 4	\$102,130	3% increase applied
Year 5	\$105,194	3% increase applied

EUNA has also offered an optional API integration for Capital Actual Costs for \$15,000, which may be implemented within 12 months of the effective date. The API integration allows the EUNA Budget system to automatically exchange real-time spending data with the County's Tyler Munis financial system, eliminating manual uploads and keeping capital project reports current. The Budget Department requests authorization for this additional cost without the need for further Board approval. Funding is available within the current fiscal year budget for Year 1 costs, with subsequent years to be budgeted accordingly.

Attached for review is the EUNA order form, Scope of Work, and an approved LRM from Legal. Upon approval at today's meeting, the order form will be presented to the Chairman for signature.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; cost for Year 1 is \$131,038, the total five-year subscription cost is \$533,784. Funding is from AA174516-568101 (General Fund).

Recommended Action: Move to approve the agreement with EUNA Solutions, Inc. for the purchase of the EUNA Budget Framework software suite for a total five-year cost of \$533,784, authorize the Chairman to execute all necessary documents, and approve an additional \$15,000 for optional API integration without returning to the Board for further approval.

(Ed. Note: this Item was approved with Budget Amendment Resolution 5.1.4.).

7.5.7. Request Approval of Contract Amendment: 25P-014-CA-01 Solid Waste Alternative Waste Management Methods - Friends Recycling, LLC, Ocala, FL (Budget Impact - Neutral; estimated expenditure of \$50,000)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Procurement Services Director Olsen:

Description/Background: On July 15, 2025, the Board approved a contract with Friends Recycling, LLC (Friends) to provide transfer station services to Marion County. The contract provides transfer station services for the loading of Class I and Class III solid waste delivered by Marion County at a fixed rate of \$8.00 per ton. This model assumed that Marion County would be responsible for the haul and disposal of the waste.

To optimize contract services, Friends has agreed to provide loading and hauling services modeled after the agreement with GFL Solid Waste Southeast LLC, which the Board also approved. Compensation is set at a base rate of \$25.00 per ton (\$5.00 for loading and \$20.00 for hauling), with adjustments tied to fuel costs and the Consumer Price Index, not to exceed 5% annually. These contracts will help maintain sufficient capacity during planned repairs or maintenance at the existing transfer station, provide essential redundancy, and ensure uninterrupted service in the event of an emergency.

The contract amendment presented today updates compensation, establishes a base rate per ton with provisions for fuel and CPI adjustments, capped at 5% annually, and revises disposal procedures so that materials will be hauled to the Heart of Florida Landfill, with enhanced ticketing, billing, and reporting requirements to improve tracking and reconciliation.

Attached for review is a draft of the amendment. Upon approval at today's meeting, it will be forwarded to Friends for signatures. Once returned, it will be sent to Legal, then the Clerk and Chairman for signatures.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; estimated annual expenditure of \$50,000. Annual expenditure will not exceed approved FY budgeted amounts without being brought back to the Board.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve and allow staff to issue, and upon approval from Legal, authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the contract amendment under 25P-014.

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7.5.8. Request Approval of Contract Amendment (Renewal): 21Q-219-CA-02 Electrical Trades Contract Services - Chuck's Stokes Electric of Central Fla Inc., Ocala, FL (Budget Impact - None)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Procurement Services Director Olsen:

Description/Background: On October 5, 2021 the Board of County Commissioners approved contract 21Q-219 with Chuck's Stokes Electric of Central Fla Inc. (CSECF) to provide Electrical Trades Contract Services. CSECF has received favorable evaluations under this contract and Marion County Facilities Management is requesting to renew this contract for a one (1) year term.

Attached for review is the draft amendment. Upon approval at today's meeting, the contract will be sent to Chuck's Stokes Electric of Central Fla Inc. and once returned, will be forwarded to Legal, the Clerk and Chairman for signatures.

Budget/Impact: None; projects assigned to the firm which exceed \$50,000 will be brought back before the Board as a separate task order with a detailed scope and fee schedule for review and final approval.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve and allow staff to issue, and upon approval from Legal, authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the contract renewal under 21Q-219.

7.5.9. Request Approval of Contract Amendment (Renewal): 22B-187 Landscape and Irrigation Maintenance - ABM Industry Groups, LLC, The Villages, FL (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$119,892)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Procurement Services Director Olsen:

Description/Background: On December 6, 2022, the Board approved a contract with ABM Industry Groups, LLC, to provide landscape and irrigation maintenance services, ensuring a standard level of appearance and operation at various Marion County Parks. The Firm has complied with the original agreement's terms and conditions, and Parks and Recreation has provided a positive evaluation. Parks and Recreation Director, Jim Couillard, recommends using a one (1) year renewal option.

Attached for review is a draft amendment. Upon approval at today's meeting, the contract will be sent to ABM Industry Groups, LLC, and once returned, will be forwarded to Legal, the Clerk, and Chairman for signatures.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; annual estimated expenditure of \$119,892. Funding is from CR362572-534101 (Parks and Rec Fees Fund).

Recommended Action: Motion to approve and allow staff to issue, and upon approval from Legal, authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the contract renewal under 22B-187.

7.5.10. Request Approval of Purchase Order to Galls, LLC for Uniforms through Sourcewell Contract 011124-GAL (Budget Impact - Neutral; estimated expenditure of \$205,000)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Procurement Services Director Olsen:

Description/Background: Marion County Fire Rescue has historically purchased uniforms for public safety through Galls, LLC (Galls) under a prior competitively

awarded contract. Galls is now an awarded vendor under Sourcewell Contract 011124-GAL, which was competitively solicited in accordance with Florida Statutes and offers favorable, discounted pricing on a wide range of uniforms and public safety apparel.

Transitioning purchases to the Sourcewell contract provides continued access to Galls' catalog while taking advantage of updated pricing and streamlined cooperative procurement. The estimated annual expenditure of \$205,000 reflects routine department uniform replacement, new employee outfitting, and specialty gear as needed for operational readiness.

Annual expenditure shall not exceed approved FY budgeted amounts without being brought back to the Board for approval.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; estimated annual expenditure of \$205,000.

EF300522-552107 - \$143,500

AA305526-552107 - \$61,500

Recommended Action: Motion to allow staff to issue a purchase order to Galls, LLC under Sourcewell Contract 011124-GAL.

7.5.11. Request Approval of Task Order: 22Q-228-TO-15 Geotechnical Services for SW 80th Avenue - Segment 1 - ECS Florida, LLC, Chantilly, VA (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$200,000)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Procurement Services Director Olsen:

Description/Background: On October 17, 2023, the Board approved contracts with five (5) geotechnical firms to provide various services for the County. These services include, but are not limited to, material testing, laboratory testing, monitoring, analyzing, reporting data, and more. The Office of the County Engineer has assigned geotechnical engineering services for SW 80th Avenue - Segment 1 (SW 95th Street to north of SW 38th Street) to the Gainesville office of ECS Florida, LLC (ECS). This work will include all necessary materials, equipment, personnel, and supervision to perform asphalt and stormwater structure testing to verify compliance with project specifications and applicable Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), and American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and other applicable standards. ECS will submit a report presenting findings, evaluations, and recommendations to the Office of the County Engineer.

Attached for review is a draft of the contract. Pending approval at today's meeting, it will be sent to ECS for signature and upon return, it will be forwarded for the County Attorney's, Clerk's, and Chairman's signatures.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; estimated expenditure of \$200,000. Funding is from VJ738541-563220 (Infrast Surtax CapProj Fund).

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the recommendation and allow staff to issue contract, and upon approval by Legal, authorize the Chairman to execute contract with ECS under 22Q-228.

7.5.12. Request Approval of Task Order: 23Q-096-TO-01 Engineering and Design Services – Baseline Landfill Expansion Phase 1 and 2 - Jones Edmunds & Associates, Inc. Gainesville, FL (Budget Impact - expenditure of \$4,831,784)

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The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Procurement Services Director Olsen:

Description/Background: On November 7, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners approved a contract with Jones Edmonds & Associates, Inc. (JEA) to provide professional consulting services related to the development of master plans, technical studies, and implementation of recommendations for Baseline Landfill.

This task order provides for engineering, design, permitting, and project management services for the Baseline Landfill Expansion (Phases 1 and 2) and East Property Development. Phase 1 of the Baseline Landfill Expansion involves reconfiguring the existing lined Cells III-A, III-B, and III-C and adding a vertical expansion over the unlined Urban Cell within the current landfill footprint. Phase 2 proposes a lateral expansion of approximately 16 acres within the existing property.

The work includes developing design plans to obtain the required FDEP permits, preparing construction-level documents with sufficient detail for competitive bidding, and providing bid-phase assistance. For the East Property, services include site plan design to support railroad crossing design and permitting, ERP application, and land development review to secure necessary regulatory approvals. Construction-phase services will be addressed under a separate scope. Attached is a draft contract for review. Upon approval at today's meeting, it will be sent to JEA for signature and, once returned, forwarded to Legal and then to the Chairman and Clerk for final signatures.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of \$4,831,784. Up to ten percent (10%) contingency may be added to the purchase order in accordance with the Procurement Manual. Funding is from ZA423534-563102; under project code SWC000049.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve Task Order and allow staff to issue contract and upon approval by Legal, authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the Task Order with Jones Edmonds & Associates, Inc. under 23Q-096.

(Ed. Note: this Item was approved with Budget Amendment Resolution 5.1.2.)

7.5.13. Request Approval of Selection Committee Recommendation: 25Q-153 Building Safety Plan Review and Inspection Services - CAP Government, Inc., Coral Gables, FL (Budget Impact - None)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Procurement Services Director Olsen:

Description/Background: On behalf of the Marion County Building Safety Department, a Request for Qualifications was advertised to contract with a qualified firm capable of providing commercial, residential, and accessory structure plan review and inspection services for structures in which permits have been applied for or issued by the County. Three submittals were received, evaluated, and scored by Selection Committee members Chuck Brown, Jared Goodspeed, and Michael Biganzoli. All three firms were shortlisted to participate in presentations; however, one firm was disqualified for failure to appear. The Selection Committee's final ranking is shown below:

Firm - Location	Rank
CAP Government, Inc. - Coral Gables, FL	1

Beryl Project Engineering, LLC - Tampa, FL	2
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The Selection Committee recommends awarding a contract to the highest-ranking firm, CAP Government, Inc. (CAP). CAP has previously provided successful services for the Building Safety Department. Approximately 25% of the department's plan review service is anticipated to be performed by CAP and another already onboard firm.

Attached for review is the draft contract. Upon approval at today's meeting, it will be sent to CAP as written. Once executed by CAP, the contract will be forwarded to the County Attorney, Clerk, and Chairman for final signatures.

Budget/Impact: None. Projects assigned that exceed \$50,000 will be presented to the Board as separate task orders, each accompanied by a detailed scope and fee schedule for review and approval.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve Selection Committee recommendation and allow staff to issue, and upon approval from Legal, authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the contract with CAP Government, Inc. under 25Q-153.

7.5.14. Requested Approval of Purchases \$50,000 and Over

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Procurement Services Director Olsen:

Description/Background: The item(s) below have been received by Procurement Services and are approved for conformance with the Procurement Code/Manual, pending approval at today's meeting.

1. Pending Requisition/Medical Priority Consultants, Inc. dba Priority Dispatch Corp. - Public Safety Communications requests approval for the renewal of the Dispatch Call-Taking Software. This is essential to ensure consistency of 911 call taking protocols. Priority Dispatch has provided training for the County's emergency call-takers for several years and the program has proven to be effective and successful. Total expenditure of \$57,400; funds are available in line AA311529-552106 (General Fund). *This purchase meets competitive bidding requirements under 13ST-211.*

2. Pending Requisition/Matheny Fire & Emergency - Fire Rescue requests approval to purchase one (1) 2028 E-ONE Pumper on a Typhoon chassis. Total expenditure of \$799,566 which includes a pre-payment discount of \$136,496; funds are available in line VJ732522-564101 (Infrast Surtax Cap Proj Fund). *This purchase meets competitive bidding requirements under Sourcwell Contract # 113021-RVG-1.*

3. Pending Requisition/Safeware, Inc. - Fire Rescue requests approval to purchase three (3) Skydio X10 drones equipped with NightSense low-light navigation attachments and spotlights for enhanced visibility, along with three-year Skydio Care coverage providing damage and loss protection, and Fleet Manager software licenses for monitoring usage and viewing 3D models. This package supports advanced aerial operations, including nighttime and low-light missions. Total expenditure of \$86,589; funds are available in line EF30052-564101 (Fire, Rescue and EMS Fund). *This purchase meets competitive bidding requirements under 21PB-045.*

4. Pending Requisition/Safe Air Corporation - Fire Rescue requests approval for Safe Air Corporation to retrofit vehicles and stations with the Plymovent system to remove exhaust from the bay area and increase air quality. This is part of the

cancer prevention initiative. Total expenditure of \$70,000; funds are available in line EF300522-546101 (\$50,000 - Fire, Rescue and EMS Fund) and EF300522-546301 (\$20,000 - Fire, Rescue and EMS Fund). *This purchase is an approved standardization under 18ST-109.*

5. Pending Requisition/Gartner, Inc. - Information Technology requests approval to purchase Executive Program Member Basic for Midsize Enterprises, IT Leaders Individual Access Advisor, and IT Symposium/Xpo Ticket, supporting strategic technology planning, industry benchmarking, and executive advisory services. Total expenditure of \$117,709; funds are available in line AA174516-531109 (Professional Services). *This purchase meets competitive bidding requirements under Sourcwell Contract # 81141902-VITA-18-ACS.*

6. Pending Requisition/Access Wireless Data Solutions - Information Technology requests approval to purchase 54(ea) Semtech XR90 Dual 5G AirLink Premium routers and 108(ea) 9-in-1 dome antennas, providing high-speed, reliable wireless connectivity for field and mobile operations. This equipment supports secure, dual-carrier 5G communication and enhanced signal coverage for mission-critical County applications. Total expenditure of \$155,220.30; funds are available in lines AA305526-552116 (\$152,345.85 - General Fund) and EF300522-552116 (\$2,874.45 - Fire, Rescue and EMS Fund). *This purchase meets competitive bidding requirements under Q24-090.*

7. Pending Requisition/Briggs Equipment, Inc. - Fleet Management requests approval to purchase one (1) 35D 4x4CON Fork Lift, to include all specifications detailed in attached quote. Total expenditure of 81,374.26; funds are available in line AA178519-564101 (General Fund). *This purchase meets competitive bidding requirements under Sourcwell Contract # 020223-JCB.*

8. Pending Requisition/Cumberland International Trucks - Solid Waste requests approval to purchase one (1) 2026 International HX X15 Roll Off Truck, to include all specifications detailed in attached quote. Total expenditure of \$261,682.80; funds are available in line ZA425534-564101 (Solid Waste Disposal Fund). *This purchase meets competitive bidding requirements under FSA25-VEH23.0.*

9. Pending Requisition/Cumberland International Trucks - Solid Waste requests approval to purchase one (1) 2026 International HX Grapple Truck, to include all specifications detailed in attached quote. Total expenditure of \$338,471.30; funds are available in line ZA425534-564101 (Solid Waste Disposal Fund). *This purchase meets competitive bidding requirements under FSA25-VEH23.0.*

Recommended Action: Motion to approve purchases over \$50,000.

(Ed. Note: this Item was approved with Budget Amendment Resolution 5.1.2.)

7.6. Solid Waste:

7.6.1. Request Approval of Resolution Amending Fees for Annual Non-Assessed Permits and Providing Fee Reductions for Yard Waste Disposal for County Departments (Budget Impact - Estimated Revenue Decrease of \$62,000)

The Board accepted the following recommendation to adopt Resolution 25-R-467 as presented by Solid Waste Director Mark Johnson:

Description/Background: Section 16-8 of the code grants the Marion County Board of County Commissioners the authority to establish the types and amounts of fees to be charged for the disposal of solid waste at the County's Baseline Landfill.

This resolution amends the annual non-assessed permit fee structure for solid waste disposal to align with the recent increase in the non-ad valorem solid waste assessment. The revised fee establishes a rate 25% above the residential solid waste assessment for non-assessed residents and provides a reduced (no-charge) rate for yard waste disposal for internal County departments.

Budget/Impact: Estimated revenue decrease of \$62,000.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the Resolution to amend fees for annual non-assessed permits and providing fee reductions for internal county departments.

Resolution 25-R-467 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING FEES FOR ANNUAL NON-ASSESSED PERMITS; PROVIDING FEE REDUCTIONS FOR COUNTY DEPARTMENTS; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT RESOLUTIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

7.7. Tourist Development:

7.7.1. Request Approval of Tourist Development Council Request for Room Night Generating Event - AHAF Holiday Festival Arabian Horse Show Hosted by Arabian Horse Association of Florida, Inc. (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of up to \$3,500)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Tourist Development Director Loretta Shaffer:

Description/Background: The Tourist Development Council (TDC) seeks funding approval for organizations that have festivals, events, or programs which support the TDC's mission of growing the economy and accelerating prosperity in Marion County through effective destination sales and marketing. The Room Night Generating Event Funding Program is intended to position Marion County as a must-experience destination in Florida through bringing quality events and initiatives to Marion County. This funding contract is for AHAF Holiday Festival Arabian Horse Show hosted by Arabian Horse Association of Florida, Inc., to be held November 26-29, 2025, at World Equestrian Center. This event was recommended for funding in the amount of \$3,500 by the TDC at their regularly scheduled meeting on August 20, 2025.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of up to \$3,500. Funding from CP155552-548101.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the Tourist Development Council funding request and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the attached funding agreement.

7.7.2. Request Approval of Tourist Development Council Funding Request for Marketing Assistance Funding Program Reimbursement for City of Ocala, For Benefit of, Ocala Recreation & Parks (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$5,000)

The Board accepted the following recommendation to as presented by Tourist Development Director Shaffer:

Description/Background: The Tourist Development Council (TDC) seeks funding approval for organizations that have festivals, events, or programs which support the TDC's mission of growing the economy and accelerating prosperity in Marion County through effective destination sales and marketing. The Marketing

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Assistance Program is designed to enable tourism-related businesses in Marion County to enhance their marketing opportunities leveraged with the Ocala/Marion County destination brand. This funding contract is for the Marketing Assistance Funding Program Reimbursement for City of Ocala, For Benefit of Ocala Recreation & Parks. This program was recommended for funding by the TDC at their regularly scheduled meeting on August 20, 2025.

City of Ocala, For Benefit of, Ocala Recreation & Parks \$5,000

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of \$5,000. Funding from CP155552-548101.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the Tourist Development Council funding request and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the attached funding agreement.

7.7.3. Request Approval of Tourist Development Council Funding Request for Marketing Assistance Funding Program Reimbursement for Adventure Ocala, LLC DBA Naventure - Ocala. (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$5,000)

The Board accepted the following recommendation to as presented by Tourist Development Director Shaffer:

Description/Background: The Tourist Development Council (TDC) seeks funding approval for organizations that have festivals, events, or programs which support the TDC's mission of growing the economy and accelerating prosperity in Marion County through effective destination sales and marketing. The Marketing Assistance Program is designed to enable tourism-related businesses in Marion County to enhance their marketing opportunities leveraged with the Ocala/Marion County destination brand. This funding contract is for the Marketing Assistance Funding Program Reimbursement for Adventure Ocala, LLC DBA Naventure - Ocala. This program was recommended for funding by the TDC at their regularly scheduled meeting on August 20, 2025.

Adventure Ocala, LLC DBA Naventure - Ocala. \$5,000

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of \$5,000. Funding from CP155552-548101.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the Tourist Development Council funding request and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the attached funding agreement.

7.7.4. Request Approval of Tourist Development Council Request for Room Night Generating Event - Winter Series Week #1 - National Show by Arena Horse Shows of Ocala, LLC (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of up to \$7,380)

The Board accepted the following recommendation to as presented by Tourist Development Director Shaffer:

Description/Background: The Tourist Development Council (TDC) seeks funding approval for organizations that have festivals, events, or programs which support the TDC's mission of growing the economy and accelerating prosperity in Marion County through effective destination sales and marketing. The Room Night Generating Event Funding Program is intended to position Marion County as a must-experience destination in Florida through bringing quality events and initiatives to Marion County. This funding contract is for WEC Winter Series Week #1 - National Show hosted by Arena Horse Shows of Ocala to be held January 1-4, 2026, at World Equestrian Center. This event was recommended for funding in

the amount of \$7,380 by the TDC at their regularly scheduled meeting on September 25, 2025.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of up to \$7,380. Funding from CP155552-548101.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the Tourist Development Council funding request and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the attached funding agreement.

7.7.5. Request Approval of Tourist Development Council Request for Room Night Generating Event - Winter Series Week #2 - National Show & FEI by Arena Horse Shows of Ocala, LLC (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of up to \$5,760)

The Board accepted the following recommendation to as presented by Tourist Development Director Shaffer:

Description/Background: The Tourist Development Council (TDC) seeks funding approval for organizations that have festivals, events, or programs which support the TDC's mission of growing the economy and accelerating prosperity in Marion County through effective destination sales and marketing. The Room Night Generating Event Funding Program is intended to position Marion County as a must-experience destination in Florida through bringing quality events and initiatives to Marion County. This funding contract is for Winter Series Week #2 - National Show & FEI hosted by Arena Horse Shows of Ocala to be held January 7-11, 2026, at World Equestrian Center. This event was recommended for funding in the amount of \$5,760 by the TDC at their regularly scheduled meeting on September 25, 2025.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of up to \$5,760. Funding from CP155552-548101.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the Tourist Development Council funding request and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the attached funding agreement.

7.7.6. Request Approval of Tourist Development Council Request for Room Night Generating Event - Winter Series Week #3 - National Show & FEI by Arena Horse Shows of Ocala, LLC (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of up to \$7,755)

The Board accepted the following recommendation to as presented by Tourist Development Director Shaffer:

Description/Background: The Tourist Development Council (TDC) seeks funding approval for organizations that have festivals, events, or programs which support the TDC's mission of growing the economy and accelerating prosperity in Marion County through effective destination sales and marketing. The Room Night Generating Event Funding Program is intended to position Marion County as a must-experience destination in Florida through bringing quality events and initiatives to Marion County. This funding contract is for WEC Winter Series Week #3 - National Show & FEI hosted by Arena Horse Shows of Ocala to be held January 14-18, 2026, at World Equestrian Center. This event was recommended for funding in the amount of \$7,755 by the TDC at their regularly scheduled meeting on September 25, 2025.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of up to \$7,755. Funding from CP155552-548101.

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Recommended Action: Motion to approve the Tourist Development Council funding request and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the attached funding agreement.

7.7.7. Request Approval of Tourist Development Council Request for Room Night Generating Event - Winter Series Week #4 - National Show & FEI by Arena Horse Shows of Ocala, LLC (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of up to \$7,405)

The Board accepted the following recommendation to as presented by Tourist Development Director Shaffer:

Description/Background: The Tourist Development Council (TDC) seeks funding approval for organizations that have festivals, events, or programs which support the TDC's mission of growing the economy and accelerating prosperity in Marion County through effective destination sales and marketing. The Room Night Generating Event Funding Program is intended to position Marion County as a must-experience destination in Florida through bringing quality events and initiatives to Marion County. This funding contract is for Winter Series Week #4 - National Show & FEI hosted by Arena Horse Shows of Ocala to be held January 21-25, 2026, at World Equestrian Center. This event was recommended for funding in the amount of \$7,405 by the TDC at their regularly scheduled meeting on September 25, 2025.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of up to \$7,405. Funding from CP155552-548101.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the Tourist Development Council funding request and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the attached funding agreement.

7.7.8. Request Approval of Tourist Development Council Request for Room Night Generating Event - Winter Series Week #5 - National Show & FEI by Arena Horse Shows of Ocala, LLC (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of up to \$8,345)

The Board accepted the following recommendation to as presented by Tourist Development Director Shaffer:

Description/Background: The Tourist Development Council (TDC) seeks funding approval for organizations that have festivals, events, or programs which support the TDC's mission of growing the economy and accelerating prosperity in Marion County through effective destination sales and marketing. The Room Night Generating Event Funding Program is intended to position Marion County as a must-experience destination in Florida through bringing quality events and initiatives to Marion County. This funding contract is for Winter Series Week #5 - National Show & FEI hosted by Arena Horse Shows of Ocala to be held January 28 - February 1, 2026, at World Equestrian Center. This event was recommended for funding in the amount of \$8,345, by the TDC at their regularly scheduled meeting on September 25, 2025.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of up to \$8,345. Funding from CP155552-548101.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the Tourist Development Council funding request and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the attached funding agreement.

7.7.9. Request Approval of Tourist Development Council Request for Room Night Generating Event - Winter Series Week #6 - National Show & FEI by Arena Horse Shows of Ocala, LLC (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of up to \$10,000)

The Board accepted the following recommendation to as presented by Tourist Development Director Shaffer:

Description/Background: The Tourist Development Council (TDC) seeks funding approval for organizations that have festivals, events, or programs which support the TDC's mission of growing the economy and accelerating prosperity in Marion County through effective destination sales and marketing. The Room Night Generating Event Funding Program is intended to position Marion County as a must-experience destination in Florida through bringing quality events and initiatives to Marion County. This funding contract is for Winter Series Week #6 - National Show & FEI hosted by Arena Horse Shows of Ocala to be held February 4-8, 2026, at World Equestrian Center. This event was recommended for funding in the amount of \$10,000 by the TDC at their regularly scheduled meeting on September 25, 2025.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of up to \$10,000. Funding from CP155552-548101.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the Tourist Development Council funding request and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the attached funding agreement.

7.7.10. Request Approval of Tourist Development Council Request for Room Night Generating Event - Winter Series Week #7 - National Show & FEI World Cup Qualifier by Arena Horse Shows of Ocala, LLC (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of up to \$10,000)

The Board accepted the following recommendation to as presented by Tourist Development Director Shaffer:

Description/Background: The Tourist Development Council (TDC) seeks funding approval for organizations that have festivals, events, or programs which support the TDC's mission of growing the economy and accelerating prosperity in Marion County through effective destination sales and marketing. The Room Night Generating Event Funding Program is intended to position Marion County as a must-experience destination in Florida through bringing quality events and initiatives to Marion County. This funding contract is for Winter Series Week #7 - National Show & FEI World Cup Qualifier hosted by Arena Horse Shows of Ocala to be held February 11-15, 2026, at World Equestrian Center. This event was recommended for funding in the amount of \$10,000 by the TDC at their regularly scheduled meeting on September 25, 2025.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of up to \$10,000. Funding from CP155552-548101.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the Tourist Development Council funding request and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the attached funding agreement.

7.7.11. Request Approval of Tourist Development Council Request for Room Night Generating Event - Winter Series Week #8 - National Show & FEI by Arena Horse Shows of Ocala, LLC (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of up to \$10,000)

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The Board accepted the following recommendation to as presented by Tourist Development Director Shaffer:

Description/Background: The Tourist Development Council (TDC) seeks funding approval for organizations that have festivals, events, or programs which support the TDC's mission of growing the economy and accelerating prosperity in Marion County through effective destination sales and marketing. The Room Night Generating Event Funding Program is intended to position Marion County as a must-experience destination in Florida through bringing quality events and initiatives to Marion County. This funding contract is for Winter Series Week #8 - National Show & FEI hosted by Arena Horse Shows of Ocala to be held February 18-22, 2026, at World Equestrian Center. This event was recommended for funding in the amount of \$10,000 by the TDC at their regularly scheduled meeting on September 25, 2025.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of up to \$10,000. Funding from CP155552-548101.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the Tourist Development Council funding request and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the attached funding agreement.

7.7.12. Request Approval of Tourist Development Council Request for Room Night Generating Event - Winter Series Week #9 - National Show & FEI by Arena Horse Shows of Ocala, LLC (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of up to \$8,370)

The Board accepted the following recommendation to as presented by Tourist Development Director Shaffer:

Description/Background: The Tourist Development Council (TDC) seeks funding approval for organizations that have festivals, events, or programs which support the TDC's mission of growing the economy and accelerating prosperity in Marion County through effective destination sales and marketing. The Room Night Generating Event Funding Program is intended to position Marion County as a must-experience destination in Florida through bringing quality events and initiatives to Marion County. This funding contract is for Winter Series Week #9 - National Show & FEI hosted by Arena Horse Shows of Ocala to be held February 25 - March 1, 2026, at World Equestrian Center. This event was recommended for funding in the amount of \$8,370 by the TDC at their regularly scheduled meeting on September 25, 2025.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of up to \$8,370. Funding from CP155552-548101.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the Tourist Development Council funding request and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the attached funding agreement.

7.7.13. Request Approval of Tourist Development Council Request for Room Night Generating Event - Winter Series Week #10 - National Show & FEI by Arena Horse Shows of Ocala, LLC (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of up to \$10,000)

The Board accepted the following recommendation to as presented by Tourist Development Director Shaffer:

Description/Background: The Tourist Development Council (TDC) seeks funding approval for organizations that have festivals, events, or programs which support

the TDC's mission of growing the economy and accelerating prosperity in Marion County through effective destination sales and marketing. The Room Night Generating Event Funding Program is intended to position Marion County as a must-experience destination in Florida through bringing quality events and initiatives to Marion County. This funding contract is for Winter Series Week #10 - National Show & FEI hosted by Arena Horse Shows of Ocala to be held March 4-8, 2026, at World Equestrian Center. This event was recommended for funding in the amount of \$10,000 by the TDC at their regularly scheduled meeting on September 25, 2025.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of up to \$10,000. Funding from CP155552-548101.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the Tourist Development Council funding request and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the attached funding agreement.

7.7.14. Request Approval of Tourist Development Council Request for Room Night Generating Event - Winter Series Week #11 - National Show by Arena Horse Shows of Ocala, LLC (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of up to \$10,000)

The Board accepted the following recommendation to as presented by Tourist Development Director Shaffer:

Description/Background: The Tourist Development Council (TDC) seeks funding approval for organizations that have festivals, events, or programs which support the TDC's mission of growing the economy and accelerating prosperity in Marion County through effective destination sales and marketing. The Room Night Generating Event Funding Program is intended to position Marion County as a must-experience destination in Florida through bringing quality events and initiatives to Marion County. This funding contract is for Winter Series Week #11 - National Show hosted by Arena Horse Shows of Ocala to be held March 11-15, 2026, at World Equestrian Center. This event was recommended for funding in the amount of \$10,000 by the TDC at their regularly scheduled meeting on September 25, 2025.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of up to \$10,000. Funding from CP155552-548101.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the Tourist Development Council funding request and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the attached funding agreement.

7.7.15. Request Approval of Tourist Development Council Request for Room Night Generating Event - Winter Series Week #12 - National Show & Longines League of Nations by Arena Horse Shows of Ocala, LLC (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of up to \$10,000)

The Board accepted the following recommendation to as presented by Tourist Development Director Shaffer:

Description/Background: The Tourist Development Council (TDC) seeks funding approval for organizations that have festivals, events, or programs which support the TDC's mission of growing the economy and accelerating prosperity in Marion County through effective destination sales and marketing. The Room Night Generating Event Funding Program is intended to position Marion County as a

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must-experience destination in Florida through bringing quality events and initiatives to Marion County. This funding contract is for Winter Series Week #12 - National Show & Longines League of Nations hosted by Arena Horse Shows of Ocala to be held March 18-22, 2026, at World Equestrian Center. This event was recommended for funding in the amount of \$10,000 by the TDC at their regularly scheduled meeting on September 25, 2025.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of up to \$10,000. Funding from CP155552-548101.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the Tourist Development Council funding request and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the attached funding agreement.

7.8. Transportation - County Engineer:

7.8.1. Request Approval of a Purchase Agreement Associated with the SW 80th Street Road Improvement Project for Parcel 3545-001-003 (Budget Impact - Neutral; Expenditure of \$237,000)

The Board accepted the following recommendation to as presented by County Engineer Steven Cohoon, Office of the County Engineer (OCE):

Description/Background: This is a request to approve a Purchase Agreement in the amount of \$237,000 plus closing costs for Parcel 3545-011-003 associated with the SW 80th Street (SW 80th Avenue to SW Hwy 200) Road Improvement Project. This is an improved lot consisting of .23 acres. The 1,248 square-foot single family residence, constructed in 1972, consists of three (3) bedrooms and two (2) bathrooms.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; Expenditure of \$237,000 plus closing costs (TIP077586 - TIP ROADS - EXPANS ROW -762T - BO762541 - 561301).

Recommended Action: Motion to approve Purchase Agreement and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the same.

7.9. Utilities:

7.9.1. Request Approval of Water Main Extension Connection Agreement WME-126-S Between Ramiro Jaramillo and Marion County (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$117,220)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Utilities Director Tony Cunningham:

Description/Background: In accordance with Land Development Code section 6.14.2, developers (property owners) are required to connect to public utilities if the property being developed is within connection distance. For a single-family residence, the connection distance is 400 feet from the parcel's closest corner to the public water main. In this case, the property owner has applied for a building permit for a parcel within the 400' connection distance of the public water main provided by Marion County Utilities (MCU). The owner is required to install the water main across the entire frontage of the parcel, ending at the farthest corner.

Resolution No. 21-R-381 approved by the Board on August 17, 2021, authorizes in certain circumstances, to permit MCU to enter into a Share Agreement whereby each parcel connecting to the MCU system is charged for only their share of the total project based upon MCU's low bid for the work. The County has funding in place to use the share methodology to extend water main beyond the Owner's

obligation to interconnect the mains and close two loops, which improves the system hydraulics within the neighborhood.

Total Project Cost	\$ 117,219.50	\$115,819.50 construction + \$1,400 design
Per Parcel Cost	\$ 5,581.88	21 total parcels

Budget/Impact: Neutral; project cost is \$117,219.50 and construction purchase order includes 10% contingency in accordance with the Procurement Manual. Funding is from ZF448536-563102 with project code UTC000094.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the Water Main Extension Connection Agreement and authorize staff to issue the purchase order for T&C Underground under 22P-146.

7.9.2. Request Approval of Water Main Extension Connection Agreement WME-111-S Between RC Home Sale LLC and Marion County (Budget Impact - Neutral; expenditure of \$44,113)

The Board accepted the following recommendation as presented by Utilities Director Cunningham:

Description/Background: In accordance with Land Development Code section 6.14.2, developers (property owners) are required to connect to public utilities if the property being developed is within connection distance. For a single-family residence, the connection distance is 400 feet from the parcel’s closest corner to the public water main. In this case, the property owner has applied for a building permit for a parcel within the 400’ connection distance of the public water main provided by Marion County Utilities (MCU). The owner is required to install the water main across the entire frontage of the parcel, ending at the farthest corner. Resolution No. 21-R-381 approved by the Board on August 17, 2021, authorizes in certain circumstances, to permit MCU to enter into a Share Agreement whereby each parcel connecting to the MCU system is charged for only their share of the total project based upon MCU’s low bid for the work. The County has funding in place to use the share methodology to extend water main beyond the Owner’s obligation to upsize the water main above the owner’s minimum to allow installation of a fire hydrant.

Collective Owners’ Total Cost	\$ 34,712.50	\$34,012.50 construction + \$700 design
Per Parcel Cost	\$ 17,365.25	Two (2) total parcels
County’s Sole Cost	\$ 9,400.00	\$ 8,700 hydrant + \$700 re-design
Total Project Cost	\$ 44,112.50	

Budget/Impact: Neutral; project cost is \$44,112.50 and construction purchase order includes 10% contingency in accordance with the Procurement Manual. Funding is from ZF448536-563102 with project code UTC000094.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the Water Main Extension Connection Agreement and authorize staff to issue the purchase order for T&C Underground under 22P-146.

8. COUNTY ATTORNEY:

8.1. Request Board Approval for Transfer and Assignment of Waste Hauler Franchise from Florida Express Environmental, LLC, to Waste Connections of Florida, Inc.

County Attorney Minter, Legal, presented the following recommendation:

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Description/Background: This request follows and is contingent upon Board approval of a new waste hauler franchise to Waste Connections of Florida, Inc., at a public hearing on this date.

Florida Express Environmental, LLC ("Florida Express"), is the current holder of a waste hauler franchise from Marion County. By the attached application dated October 29, 2025, Florida Express has requested the Board to approve and authorize Waste Connections of Florida, Inc. ("Waste Connections") to be the controlling interest and the management of Florida Express and the Florida Express Marion County Commercial and Residential Solid Waste Hauler Franchise Permit.

Marion County Code Section 16-50, Transfer of Franchise, provides that "[a] franchise shall not be bought, sold, transferred, assigned, or otherwise alienated, in whole or in part, without the prior approval of the board and without prior settlement of all accounts payable with the county for franchise fees, disposal fees, and other costs and expenses." The Solid Waste Director has confirmed that Florida Express satisfies the second requirement.

No public hearing is required for Board action on this item. Once the Board grants a new waste hauler franchise to Waste Connections, Waste Connections qualifies to be a recipient of this transfer of franchise. Waste Connections would then acquire the controlling interest of Florida Express. However, it is the desire and intent of Waste Connections to continue to operate the Florida Express franchise under that name, and also operate its own separate waste hauler franchise under the Waste Connections name. Mr. Michael Paglia, the Chief Operating Officer of Florida Express, will be present to answer any questions the Board may have concerning the transfer of the franchise.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to Approve Franchise Transfer from Florida Express Environmental, LLC to Waste Connections of Florida, Inc.

County Attorney Minter stated this Item follows the earlier public hearing that granted a new solid waste franchise to Waste Connections of Florida, Inc. He advised that Florida Express is the current long time holder of a waste hauler franchise in Marion County, noting this request would transfer their franchise to Waste Connections of Florida, Inc. Mr. Minter advised of a Revision to this Item, noting the draft Resolution refers to the current franchise holder as Florida Environmental Express, LLC; however, the correct name is Florida Express Environmental, LLC.

Commissioner Curry congratulated John Paglia, III, on being in charge of the new operations.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Curry, to adopt Resolution 25-R-468 approving the franchise transfer from Florida Express Environmental, LLC to Waste Connections of Florida, Inc. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

Resolution 25-R-468 is entitled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A SOLID WASTE HAULER FRANCHISE FROM FLORIDA EXPRESS ENVIRONMENTAL, LLC, TO WASTE CONNECTIONS OF FLORIDA, INC.; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Chairman Bryant expressed her appreciation to the Paglia family for their dedicated service to the community and for all of the charitable endeavors they have participated in over the past 50 years.

Commissioner Zalak congratulated the Paglia family and expressed his appreciation for their charitable endeavors. He stated Waste Connections has been a great partner in waste disposal for Marion County.

NEW BUSINESS/UPDATE: Mr. Minter advised that last night staff received a Notice from the 5th District Court of Appeals advising that they have scheduled the Oral Argument for January 13, 2026 in the Case of AZ Ocala Ranch, LLC vs. Marion County, noting this is the 9th year of this litigation.

9. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR:

9.1. Request Approval of the 2026 Schedule of Regular Meetings of the Board of County Commissioners

County Administrator Mounir Bouyounes presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: The recommended meeting schedule for the calendar year 2026 (attached) was developed by staff, in coordination with the Clerk's office, and takes into consideration observed County holidays and dates that the Board has traditionally canceled or rescheduled.

Approval of the annual schedule of meetings allows for advance planning and proper notice of meetings at the beginning of each year. The Board maintains flexibility to schedule, cancel, or reschedule any meetings, should the need arise.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the attached 2026 Schedule of Regular Meetings.

County Administrator Bouyounes advised that he is presenting the BCC meeting calendar for 2026, noting as part of the proposed calendar he moved the second Planning and Zoning (P&Z) meetings usually held on Mondays prior to the regular BCC meetings (held on the first and third Tuesdays) to Wednesdays the day after regularly scheduled BCC meetings. He stated there could be some conflicts with the Regional Planning Council meetings, which will be Chaired this upcoming year by Commissioner Curry. Mr. Bouyounes questioned whether the Regional Planning Council could amend their meeting schedules to meet on a different day rather than on the third Wednesday of the month, noting the Council should be discussing this matter at their next meeting. He advised that if the Council is unable to amend their meeting dates, the only 2 dates that would be a conflict would be in the months of May and August 2026. In that case the BCC would either have to do without a 2nd zoning meeting for those 2 months or consider some other date adjustments. In addition, in January 2026 there is a conflict on the 3rd Wednesday of the month due to the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) Day in Tallahassee. Mr. Bouyounes noted it is also Tourism Day in Tallahassee as well. He recommended the Board not hold a 2nd P&Z meeting in January. Mr. Bouyounes stated the month of July 2026 will be a very busy month with holding Budget workshops as well as the Destination International for Tourism event to be held in the State of Oregon.

It was the general consensus of the Board to remove the Destination International for Tourism event from Commissioner calendars.

Chairman Bryant opined that P&Z meetings should be prioritized first before FAC meetings.

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General discussion ensued.

Commissioner Curry advised that he was not in favor of asking the Regional Planning Council to amend their schedules for just a couple of conflicts in May and August.

Mr. Bouyounes noted staff will continue to work the conflicts out.

A motion was made by Commissioner McClain, seconded by Commissioner Stone, to approve the 2026 Schedule of Regular Meetings as amended. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

10. COMMITTEE ITEMS: NONE

11. NOTATION FOR ACTION:

Commissioner Curry commented on Agenda Item 11.9., noting he saw an article in the Ocala Gazette; wherein, representatives on behalf of Track Line, LLC., advised that they are in compliance, which they clearly are not in compliance. He questioned if this is the only Letter the Board plans to send out. Chairman Bryant stated it is at this time, noting the County has already requested an extension from Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) in considering Track Line's submitted permit application, as well as requested an Administrative Hearing.

In response to Chairman Bryant, Growth Services Director Chuck Varadin advised that the County gave 14 days for Track Line, LLC., to clean up their hazardous material within CSX Transportation, Inc.'s property, which ends on November 11, 2025. He stated staff are working with the MCSO helicopter crew to go in and see what is happening on that property. Mr. Varadin stated it is his understanding that there has been no removal of materials off the site. He advised that FDEP has granted the City of Dunnellon its request for an extension, and he believes FDEP will also grant Marion County's request for extension.

Assistant County Attorney Linda Blackburn, Legal, advised that she has been reviewing the legal ramifications and timelines for filing an injunction against Track Line, LLC., noting at this point, another Cease and Desist Letter would put the County in the same position it is in currently. The County sent a letter on October 24, 2025 requesting the company cease dumping any additional used railroad ties on the property. She stated it appears that the company is still continuing to dump more ties on that property and opined that sending another Cease and Desist Letter seems like a wasted effort.

In response to Chairman Bryant, Mr. Minter advised that if the Board directs staff, Legal can move forward with filing an injunction now.

Chairman Bryant expressed support for moving forward with an injunction.

Commissioner Stone concurred.

Ms. Blackburn stated she would move forward with putting the paperwork together to file a preliminary injunction.

In response to Commissioner Curry, Ms. Straub stated staff could review the matter to determine whether this issue would fall under the Litter Ordinance.

Mr. Minter opined that if there is a way to show that this dumping is a criminal violation of the Litter Statute, it may be something worth pursuing on a parallel track.

Chairman Bryant directed staff to go after the company for non-compliance. She advised that the Cease and Desist Letter was sent by regular mail, electronic mail (email), and certified mail, noting the signature shows that the company has received the letters.

Chairman Bryant expressed her appreciation to Attorney Blackburn and legal staff, as well as Code Enforcement staff for their work on this issue.

11.1. Request Approval to Schedule a Workshop to Discuss Workforce Housing Initiative on Monday, November 17, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium

County Administrator Bouyounes presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: The following date is being requested for a Workshop to Discuss Workforce Housing Initiative:

- Monday, November 17, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to schedule a Workshop to Discuss Workforce Housing Initiative on Monday, November 17, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Curry, to schedule a Workshop to Discuss Workforce Housing Initiative on Monday, November 17, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

11.2. Request Approval to Schedule a Workshop to Discuss Southwest Regional Water Reclamation Facility on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium.

Utilities Director Cunningham presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: Marion County Utilities will provide an overview of the Southwest Regional Water Reclamation Facility expansion plan around the Oak Run community on Highway 484.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to schedule a workshop to discuss Southwest Regional Water Reclamation Facility on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Curry, to schedule a workshop to discuss Southwest Regional Water Reclamation Facility on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

11.3. Request Approval to Schedule and Advertise a Workshop to Discuss Fire Station Prototypes on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 1:30 p.m., in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium

County Administrator Bouyounes presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: The following date is being requested for a Workshop to Discuss Fire Station Prototypes:

- Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to schedule and advertise a workshop to discuss fire station prototypes on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 1:30 p.m., in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Curry, to schedule a workshop to discuss fire station prototypes on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 1:30 p.m., in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

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11.4. Request Approval to Reschedule and Advertise a Public Hearing to Consider the Adoption of a Resolution for Heather Island Market Center Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) for General Maintenance and Capital Improvements on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. or soon thereafter in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium

Municipal Services (MS) Director Chad Wicker presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: The Board previously approved Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. for a Public Hearing associated with the proposed Heather Island Market Center Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) for General Maintenance and Capital Improvements in accordance with Section 125.01(1)(q), Florida Statute. However, this meeting is being requested to be rescheduled to the following date and time to accommodate the required advertising to consider the adoption of a Resolution:

- Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to reschedule and advertise a public hearing to adopt a resolution for Heather Island Market Center MSBU for General Maintenance and Capital Improvements on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, starting at 10:00 a.m. or soon thereafter in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Curry, to schedule a public hearing to adopt a resolution for Heather Island Market Center MSBU for General Maintenance and Capital Improvements on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, starting at 10:00 a.m. or soon thereafter in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

11.5. Request Approval to Reschedule and Advertise a Public Hearing to Consider the Adoption of a Resolution for Maricamp Market Centre Replat Phase 1 and Phase 2 Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) for General Maintenance and Capital Improvements on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. or soon thereafter in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium

Municipal Services Director Wicker presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: The Board previously approved Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. for a Public Hearing associated with Maricamp Market Centre Replat Phase 1 and Phase 2 Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) for General Maintenance and Capital Improvements in accordance with Section 125.01(1)(q), Florida Statute. However, this meeting is being requested to be rescheduled to the following date and time to accommodate the required advertising to consider the adoption of a Resolution:

- Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to reschedule and advertise a public hearing to adopt a resolution for Maricamp Market Centre Replat Phase 1 and Phase 2 MSBU for General Maintenance and Capital Improvements on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, starting at 10:00 a.m. or soon thereafter in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Curry, to schedule a public hearing to adopt a Resolution for Maricamp Market Centre Replat Phase 1 and Phase 2 MSBU for General Maintenance and Capital Improvements on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, starting at 10:00 a.m. or soon thereafter in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

11.6. Request Approval to Schedule and Advertise a Workshop to Discuss the Marion County Fleet Department and Department of Health in Belleview on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 1:30 p.m., in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium
County Administrator Bouyounes presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: The following date is being requested for a Workshop to Discuss the Marion County Fleet Department and Department of Health Facility in Belleview:

- Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to schedule and advertise a workshop to discuss the Marion County Fleet Department and Department of Health in Belleview on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 1:30 p.m., in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Curry, to schedule a workshop to discuss the Marion County Fleet Department and Department of Health in Belleview on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 1:30 p.m., in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

11.7. Request Approval to Schedule a Joint Planning Workshop with the Marion County School Board, Board of County Commissioners and Municipalities on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Southeastern Livestock Pavilion Auditorium

Growth Services Director Chuck Varadin presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: Per the Interlocal Agreement for Public School Facility Planning, a Joint Planning Workshop for the Public Schools Planning Officials (PSPO) is to be held annually. The last meeting was on March 12, 2025. The next Joint Planning Workshop has been coordinated with each agency and is proposed for:

Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.
in the Southeastern Livestock Pavilion Auditorium

The Joint Planning Workshop provides opportunities for the PSPO to discuss mutual issues of concern, as well as to review the Technical Working Group's annual report regarding residential housing activity, development approvals and trends, population projections, vacant land, underutilized land, and student projections and enrollment. Last year, the School Board engaged a consultant to review the data and prepare a thorough report on data trends needed for school planning. These findings will be presented at this workshop proposed for April 1, 2026.

The PSPO members are comprised of the elected officials from the cities of Belleview, Dunnellon, McIntosh, Ocala and Reddick; the Marion County School Board; and the Marion County Board of County Commissioners.

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Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve and schedule a Joint Planning Workshop with the cities of Belleview, Dunnellon, McIntosh, Ocala and Reddick; the School Board; the Board of County Commissioners on Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the Southeastern Livestock Pavilion Auditorium.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Curry, to schedule a Joint Planning Workshop with the cities of Belleview, Dunnellon, McIntosh, Ocala and Reddick; Marion County School Board (MCSB); and the Board of County Commissioners on Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the Southeastern Livestock Pavilion Auditorium. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

11.8. Request Approval of Letters of Support for Transitions Life Center

Executive Assistant Jennifer Clark, Commission Office, presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: Transitions Life Center (TLC) is a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to provide a safe, caring and enriching community for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. TLC focuses on strengthening independence, building friendships, expanding their world, and growing in faith.

TLC has asked for two (2) letters of support for their appropriations requests to the Florida House of Representatives and Florida Senate. The funding requests will help support their scholarship fund expand as they open their program to more individuals.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the letters of support for TLC.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Curry, to approve the letters of support for TLC. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

11.9. Request Ratification of Letter in Opposition to Track Line, LLC Air Permit No. 0830196-001-AC

County Administrator Bouyounes, Administration, presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: Track Line, LLC is a Texas based company that is dropping off hazardous materials in Marion County within CSX Transportation, Inc.'s property. This location is within a Spring Protection Overlay Zone (SPOZ), zoned as Agriculture (A-1), with a land use designation requiring Preservation. This property is also surrounded by the Greenway State Recreation Area to the north, springs and the Rainbow River to the south, and residential properties on both sides.

Track Line, LLC has not sought Marion County's approval for its planned operation but still has caused many thousands of creosote-treated railroad ties to be deposited not only on its proposed site, but also on numerous other parcels adjacent to the proposed site. This massive accumulation resulted in Marion County issuing CSX Transportation, Inc. and Track Line, LLC, a notice of violation of Marion County Code Chapter 16, Article III, Sec. 16-92. Track Line, LLC has not sought any required re-zoning or permitting from Marion County and is therefore not allowed to conduct any heavy industrial or commercial use on this property.

Marion County has written a letter in opposition of the permit for Track Line, LLC's application for Air Permit No. 0830196-001-AC.

Budget/Impact: None.

Recommended Action: Motion to ratify letter in opposition to Track Line, LLC Air Permit No. 0830196-001-AC.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Curry, to ratify letter in opposition to Track Line, LLC Air Permit No. 0830196-001-AC. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

(Ed. Note: This matter was discussed earlier in the meeting.)

12. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Scheduled requests will be heard first and limited to five (5) minutes. Unscheduled speakers will be limited to two (2) minutes. Citizens may contact Marion County Administration by 5:00 p.m. the Friday before the meeting at 352-438-2300 to request to speak or sign up online at: www.marionfl.org.

Chairman Bryant opened the floor to public comment.

Commissioner Stone out at 11:31 a.m.

Thomas Whitler, Pine Course, advised that he is present today on behalf of his late brother Larry Whitler and his partner Robin MacBlane, noting for almost 20 years the duo had a radio show on station WOCA. He commented on the many charitable causes the duo worked on including the First Friday Art Walk Festival, Habitat for Humanity, Adult Literacy, etc. Mr. Whitler stated they were 2 ordinary people who did extraordinary things and who loved Marion County. He opined that it would be a sad thing if their legacy ended because of a vehicular accident caused by an intoxicated driver. Mr. Whitler requested the BCC consider naming a bicycle trail after them or some other kind of recognition for their charitable endeavors.

Commissioner Stone returned at 11:33 a.m.

Chairman Bryant expressed her appreciation to Larry Whitler and his partner Robin MacBlane, noting it would be the Board's honor to have staff review this matter and see if there is something that can be done to honor them both.

Robert Kalbfleisch, NW 41st Lane, expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Stone for having staff reach out to him in regard to concern for a traffic light at NW 55th Avenue and US Highway 27. He commented on the need for a time limit if it is the builder's responsibility to address traffic issues caused by their developments.

Commissioner Stone expressed her appreciation to Mr. Kalbfleisch for bringing this matter to her attention, noting staff are working on this to ensure this matter is resolved. She stated it is her understanding that a traffic study and a traffic light is required by the builder of the residential community.

Marsha Phelps, Blue Heron Court, Dunnellon, advised that she attended the recent Dunnellon City Council meeting; wherein, she found out about the issues with the old railroad ties being dumped on that property, as well as the request of the company to perform its industrial operation in the middle of 4 communities. She expressed her appreciation for all that the County is doing for citizens in the Dunnellon area.

Joseph Walker, SE 54th Place, Ocklawaha, addressed the need for litter cleanup around the Forest Library. He commented on the transfer station across the street on CR 314A that will now be accepting used tires and old furniture for the next 60 days. Mr. Walker addressed the condition of the walkway by the Forest Library and other litter dumping issues in the surrounding area.

November 4, 2025

Chairman Bryant advised that public comment is now closed.

13. COMMISSIONER ITEMS:

13.1. Commission Comments

Commissioner Curry commented on the Vets Helping Vets program, noting he has been working with the organization even before he was elected as a Commissioner. He advised that when Commissioner Stone was Chairman, she appointed him as the liaison Commissioner to that organization, noting he and ACA Amanda Tart started that journey together. Commissioner Curry expressed his appreciation to Public Relations (PR) Director Bobbi Perez, Veterans Services Director Daisy Diaz, and Legislative Manager Mathew R. Cretul, Administration.

Commissioner Curry stated last year local Retired Army Colonel Craig Ham was nominated and inducted into the State of Florida's Veterans Hall of Fame. He advised that this year the organization nominated Retired US Army Captain Steven Petty who was 1 of the 5 selected out of 250 nominees, noting he will be in attendance for the ceremony in Tallahassee.

Commissioner Curry commented on all the issues the organization addresses in order to find a way to help local veterans. He stated the organization would like to hold a dinner recognizing local veterans sometime in March of 2026. Commissioner Curry requested the consensus of the Board to allow Vets Helping Vets and other veteran organizations to work with County PR to promote this recognition dinner.

In response to Commissioner Stone, Commissioner Curry stated he will continue to be involved with organizing the recognition dinner.

Chairman Bryant commented on the many other outside organizations that have requested help from County PR, noting the Board needs to be very careful when asking County employees to take on work for outside organizations. She opined that if this was an initiative of the County Veterans Services Department it would be a different story.

General discussion ensued.

Commissioner Curry commented on the potential creation of a local Veteran's Hall of Fame.

ACA Amanda Tart advised that this originated as an idea from County Veterans Services Department in order to honor local veterans. She commented on the need to include and collaborate with other veteran groups and organizations. Ms. Tart stated Vets Helping Vets has offered to help with a lot of the coordination with an end goal of recognizing local veterans by holding a local Veterans Hall of Fame event through the Veterans Services Department in coordination with the PR team and other organizations.

Mr. Bouyounes advised that at this time he cannot provide information as to how much staff time will be needed; however, once the information is available, he will bring the matter back to the Board for consideration.

Commissioner Curry stated Mr. Cretul had been very involved with assisting Vets Helping Vets in the application process for Captain Petty. He advised that in regard to raising funds, Vets Helping Vets will be in charge of that, and the County will not be involved in any of the financial part of the project.

In response to Chairman Bryant, Ms. Tart advised that PR would be involved in producing videos and taking pictures, noting for the dinner event in March 2026, Vets Helping Vets will be hosting the event and may have already secured the Southeastern Livestock Pavilion (SELP) and found a sponsor for the meals.

General discussion ensued.

Commissioner Zalak commented on the upcoming America 250 Gala and questioned if there was a way to fold these 2 events together.

Chairman Bryant opined that the County is taking on too many things that are not within the role of what it is supposed to be doing.

Commissioner Stone commented on the Marion County Historical Commission (MCHC) and opined that they may be an option, as well as other outside sources to help document some of the veterans' stories.

Commissioner Curry opined that the Marion County Veterans Hall of Fame could be an extension of the Veterans Park and would be an important part of that Park.

Commissioner McClain opined that it may help to understand how much of staff's time is currently being utilized for the Agricultural Hall of Fame and other similar events.

General discussion resumed.

Commissioner Stone expressed her appreciation to Commissioner Curry for doing an awesome job and she looks forward to hearing more information regarding the Marion County Veterans Hall of Fame event. She advised that today through Veterans Day, the County will be supporting veterans by lighting many of its buildings green in conjunction with "Operation Green Light", which is taking place across the Country.

Commissioner McClain advised that he had nothing further to add.

Commissioner Zalak advised that he had nothing further to add.

Chairman Bryant advised that the Bring the Harvest Home event is currently going on. Mr. Bouyounes stated there is a big food drive competition going on among County Departments.

13.1.1. Request Approval of Renewal of Surety Bonds for Commissioners Bryant, Curry, McClain, Stone and Zalak

Executive Assistant Clark, Commission Office, presented the following recommendation:

Description/Background: Surety bonds for the following Commissioners are due for renewal for the length of time listed below:

Commissioner Bryant - one (1) year, renewal date: November 20, 2025

Commissioner Curry - one (1) year, renewal date: November 17, 2025

Commissioner McClain - one (1) year, renewal date: November 20, 2025

Commissioner Stone - one (1) year, renewal date: November 9, 2025

Commissioner Zalak - one (1) year, renewal date: November 20, 2025

Attached are the payment renewals for the five (5) Commissioners.

Budget/Impact: Neutral; expenditure of \$500 - \$100 for each premium to King Risk Partners, LLC, as approved in the FY 2025-26 budget.

Recommended Action: Motion to approve renewal of surety bonds for all Commissioners.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Curry, to approve renewal of surety bonds for all Commissioners. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board (5-0).

13.2. Commission Calendar

13.2.1. Present Commission Calendar

November 4, 2025

The Chairman acknowledged receipt of the Commission calendar covering the period of November 4, 2025 through December 2, 2025.

14.1. County Administrator Informational Items:

14.1.1. Present Monthly Building Safety Productivity Report for the Month of September 2025

14.1.2. Present Memorandum from County Administrator Regarding Approved Holiday Schedule for 2026 Dated November 5, 2025

14.1.3. Present Letter from the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Dated October 1, 2025, Regarding the Review of the Surface Water Improvement and Management Program Priority List

14.1.4. Present Notification of the Performance Evaluation and Merit Increase for the County Attorney

14.1.5. Present Solid Waste Monthly Operations Report for September 2025

14.2. Present Walk-On Items From Previous BCC Meeting: NONE

14.3. Clerk of the Court:

14.3.1. Present Letter from Florida Department of Revenue - Rainbow Lakes Estates Truth in Millage Compliance

14.3.2. Present Letter from Florida Department of Revenue - County Maximum Millage Levy Calculation Final Disclosure Compliance

14.3.3. Present Letter from Florida Department of Revenue - County Truth in Millage Compliance

14.3.4. Present Report No. 2025-03 Revenue Control Review of Southeastern Livestock Pavilion

14.3.5. Present Letter Dated September 22, 2025, from Gregory C. Harrell, Clerk of Circuit Court, to Cord Byrd, Secretary of State, for Oath of Office for Armando Moran Jr., Member of the Marion County Industrial Development Authority

14.3.6. Present Letter From The Southwest Florida Water Management District, Dated September 26, 2025, Along With The Proposed 2026 Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program

14.3.7. Present Administrative Budget Transfer Report for FY 2025-26

14.3.8. Present Memorandum From Gregory C. Harrell, Clerk Of The Circuit Court And Comptroller, Regarding The Filing Of Ordinances Corrected 24-38, 25-03 And 25-47 With the Secretary Of State's Office.

14.3.9. Present Regular Report of Utilization for Reserve for Contingencies

14.4. Present for information and record, minutes and notices received from the following committees and agencies:

14.4.1. Development Review Committee (DRC) – October 6 and October 13, 2025

14.4.2. Historical Commission – June 9, July 14, and August 11, 2025

14.4.3. Local Mitigation Strategy Steering Committee – February 21, and October 16, 2024 and June 25, 2025

14.4.4. License Review Board – September 9, 2025

14.4.5. Tourist Development Council – September 25, 2025

14.5. General Informational Items:

14.5.1. Marion County Health Department – For the Latest health news and information, Visit the Website at <http://marion.floridahealth.gov/>

14.5.2. Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) - For Minutes and Agendas, Visit the Website at <http://www.WaterMatters.org>

14.5.3. St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) - For Minutes and Agendas, Visit the Website at <https://www.sjrwmd.com>

14.5.4. Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) - For Minutes and Agendas, Visit the Website at <https://ocalamariontpo.org>

14.5.5. Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) - For Minutes and Agendas, Visit the Website at <http://www.wrwsa.org>

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting thereupon adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Kathy Bryant, Chairman

Attest:

Gregory C. Harrell, Clerk

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